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LD1808134088 [Editorial Report]

Pakistan

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq was killed when the C-130 in which he was traveling exploded shortly after takeoff from Bahwalpur, Islamabad radio announced "with profound grief and sorrow."

President Ziaul Haq and his party had been returning to the capital from a brief military inspection tour.

Among the 30 others who died in the explosion were 13 senior Pakistani officers, including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the chief of General Staff; U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel and U.S. Brigadier General Herbert Wassom; and 15 crew members.

Defense Ministry officials told AFP 18 August that sabotage probably caused the explosion of General Ziaul Haq's specially outfitted C-130 and speculated that the presidential plane was destroyed by a bomb or by a missile.

Following the death of Gen Ziaul Haq, Senate Chairman Gulam Ishaq Khan "assumed the responsibilities of the president," Islamabad radio also announced.

In an address to the nation broadcast live by the radio, President Ishaq Khan stated that "the possibility of sabotage cannot be ruled out."

An "immediate inquiry" was ordered, he said, and he noted that Pakistan will be keeping a "close watch on the unholy designs of our enemies."

He also announced 10 days of national mourning.

While deploring the "great tragedy" which has befallen the nation and the loss of "valuable lives," the new president nevertheless expressed confidence that the country will be able to meet the challenge of this "hard test" because "the foundations of Pakistan are strong and stable."

Ishaq Khan eulogized Gen Ziaul Haq as a leader of the "entire Islamic world" who bequeathed the "legacy of a nation which can be greatly proud of it independence and sovereignty."

The new president called on the Pakistani people to protect their inheritance by cooperating with him to fulfill the Constitution.

Ishaq Khan stressed that the maintenance of "law and order" is a priority. He announced that, in line with constitutional provisions, the cabinet declared a "state of emergency."

It also approved the formation of a "high-level emergency council" whose members include the senior federal minister; the federal ministers of interior, defense, and justice; the chiefs of the three military services; and five high-level provincial officials.

General Mirza Aslam Beg was appointed Army chief of staff and the "caretaker cabinets" at the federal and provincial levels were directed to continue their work.

The nation will "continue to march on the glowing path of democracy," Ishaq Khan asserted and specified that "the government will fulfill all of its responsibilities in connection with holding peaceful, fair, and impartial elections."

The president also emphasized that Pakistan will adhere to its current foreign policy line and will honor its international commitments and responsibilities.

The Pakistani citizenry were "deeply grieved and shocked" at the news of Gen Ziaul Haq's untimely death, which created a "big vacuum in the nation"s life," Islamabad radio reported, adding that many people were "seen crying and in a frenzy."

"Thousands" of people traveled to the site of the explosion and condolences from government officials and political figures as well as the general populace were pouring in, the radio said.

Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition Pakistani People's Party, told AFP the party is "watching the situation carefully" and considers the implementation of the Constitution's stipulation on succession a "positive development."

According to the agency, Ms Bhutto noted that Gen Ziaul Haq's rule had been "extremely violent." "It seems that it ended with violence," she said, and she expressed regret over the deaths of the U.S. ambassador and other passengers.

Regarding condolences and reaction from abroad, Indian Foreign Secretary K.P.S. Menon expressed "dismay" at the news and a spokesman for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's office announced that a "considered reaction" would be issued, AFP reported.

On behalf of the PRC Government and people, Chinese President Yang Shangkun and Premier Li Peng expressed "profound condolences" on the death of a "respected old friend" who made "unremitting efforts" toward national independence and regional peace and stability, XINHUA reported 18 August.

In condolences reported by IRNA, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i regretted the loss of a "wise and conscious brother" whom he described as a "competent leader and a good friend."

The agency noted that the general's death could "trigger significant domestic and regional repercussions."

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who had just arrived in Tehran for talks on international issues, including Afghanistan, cut his visit short and left urgently for home, Tehran television reported.

In Karachi, state-owned oil facilities were damaged by rocket attacks 18 August, AFP reported, citing "witnesses and official sources."

Afghanistan

Pakistan's leaders must end their "aggression" against Afghanistan or they will "burn in the flames of their deeds," President Najibullah said in a speech carried by Kabul radio marking Independence Day and Army Day.

The speech, broadcast after the first reports of the death of Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, was presumably recorded earlier. Najibullah accused Ziaul Haq and other "old disguised enemies" of seeking to destroy the country's "liberation movement."

Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, PDPA Central Committee member, was appointed minister of defense and I Corps Commander Major General Mohammad Asef Delawar was named chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, Kabul radio announced.

A rebel rocket attack caused a "huge fire" last week that "partly destroyed" a munitions depot in Baghlan Province, according to diplomatic sources cited by AFP.

"Around 100" people, including Soviet military and civilian personnel, were killed in the blaze, the sources said.

Mujahidin captured Taloqan City in Takhar Province on 12 August after 2 days of fighting with Soviet and Afghan troops, according to rebel sources cited by XINHUA.

Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad organization issued a statement to a foreign news agency in Beirut 18 August saying that foreign hostages would not be released unless its "demands" are met, Cairo radio reported.

The statement, accompanied by a photograph of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson, came after an anonymous caller, who identified himself as an Islamic Jihad member, said 17 August that hostage Terry Waite would be released "shortly" if the British Government "shows good will," according to Cairo and Voice of Lebanon radios.

"Well-informed Lebanese sources" told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "by the new year" all Western hostages would be released.

"Final touches" are being put on the arrangements, which call for the release of Muhammad 'Ali Hammadi and a ransom payment of $5 million per hostage, the sources said, citing the "recent improvement" in U.S.-Iranian relations as the reason for the decision to release the hostages.

The Chamber of Deputies presidential election session was adjourned for "lack of a quorum" and will be rescheduled, Voice of National Resistance radio announced.

Three deputies en route to the session had been "detained" by gunmen in East Beirut, the chamber speaker's office told Beirut radio.

The area surrounding Mansur Palace, the deputies' meeting place, had been turned into an "isolated security zone" to "safeguard" the election session, Beirut radio disclosed.

Israel

Four Gaza residents were deported to Lebanon and 25 deportation orders were served to "leading agitators" in the occupied territories, Jerusalem radio announced.

Security forces lifted the curfew from Gaza City, Khan Yunus, Rafah, and Dayr al-Balah but it will continue in Gaza's refugee camps, the radio disclosed.

A girl died in Janin after being hit in the head by a stone, the radio reported.

Six Nabulus residents were injured when security forces dispersed a riot there, the radio added.

Bayt Hanina residents rioted after the funeral of a man who police say committed suicide while in detention in Jerusalem, the radio reported.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced that the Likud ministers rejected Ari'el Sharon's plan to extend Israeli law over the occupied territories, Jerusalem radio reported.

A Soviet Jewish emigration plan approved by Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres calls for Soviet Jews to fly through Romania and "at least touch down" in Israel, the radio announced.

The Jews would then be "absolutely free" to continue to "any other destination of their choice," the radio said.

Palestinian Affairs

Jordan agreed "to freeze" the implementation of its West Bank measures to "pave the way" for the PLO to "take appropriate measures" toward assuming its administration, PLO adviser Hani al-Hasan told Kuwait's AL-SIYASAH.

The Palestine National Salvation Front rejected Salah Khalaf's "serious, suspect" proposals as "concessions in favor of the Zionist enemy," according to the clandestine Al-Quds radio.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Kurdish "combatants" killed 500 Iraqi troops recently in a "series of operations" in Iraqi Kurdistan, Tehran radio reported.

The operations were in response to Iraqi chemical attacks, which left more than 1,000 Kurds homeless, the radio added.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and Iraqi first deputy prime minister, denied that "Arab and international pressures" caused Iraq to change its position and accept a cease-fire before direct talks with Iran, Kuwait's AL-ANBA' revealed.

Ramadan said Iraq continues to "adhere to direct talks" out of a "concern for peace."

He maintained Iraq has a "clear right" in the Shatt al-'Arab, its "major terminal," and has called on the UN Security Council to take "early measures" to give Iran and Iraq "equal benefits" in shipping facilities after the cease-fire is implemented.

Palestinian Affairs

'Tangible' Shift in U.S. Policy Toward PLO

NC1608122688 Paris AFP in English 1205 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 16 (AFP)—Washington's policy towards the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has started showing a "clear and tangible" shift since Jordan's decision to cut links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank, a PLO official said in remarks published Tuesday.

Jamal al-Surani, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee said in an interview with the United Arab Emirates daily AL-ITTIHAD that the change was motivated by the United States' concern for Israel's security.

"We think the U.S. is serious about the peace process... because it is not we alone but also Israel which is threatened" by the present situation, he said.

Recent statements by U.S. officials about the need to exchange land for peace and the importance of Palestinian representation in Middle East peace talks showed there was "a clear and tangible change in the American administration's position towards the PLO," he added.

He said this shift of position had become since last month's decision by Jordan's King Husayn to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank.

The PLO expected this shift to become official U.S. policy, Mr. al-Surani stressed, adding that Palestinians would not be willing to meet U.S. officials until Washington recognised the PLO.

PLO Asks Jordan To 'Freeze' West Bank Measures

PM1608100788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "PLO Asks Jordan To Freeze Measures on Passports"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, agencies—A PLO official said yesterday the PLO has asked Jordan to freeze the new measures relating to passports held by Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

The official, who wished to remain anonymous, said "we are confident the Jordanians will help us in this transitional period until the PLO decides how best to fill the vacuum resulting from Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank."

An official source has said King Husayn yesterday received the PLO delegation currently in Amman for talks on the Jordanian monarch's decision to sever administrative and legal links with the West Bank. The delegation, headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin), met with other Jordanian officials the day before yesterday.

Last Sunday King Husayn said people of the West Bank may continue to obtain Jordanian passports but these would only be travel documents and would not give the holders Jordanian citizenship rights. He also said the current passports would not be withdrawn before a Palestinian state is established.

However, the PLO official said the PLO wants Jordan to actually freeze the measures already announced because that would minimize the problems faced by the people of the West in their day-to-day living.

Jordan Reportedly Agrees

JN1708154288 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 16 Aug 88 p 16

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and member of the Palestinian delegation to the recent talks with Jordan, has said that Jordan agreed to freeze the implementation of the measures that were taken following its decision to disengage legal and administrative relationships with the West Bank.

The most important of these mesures are connected to passports, bridges, university studies, and military service (freezing military service for West Bank residents).

This came in a statement to AL-SIYASAH in which he also said this Jordanian agreement came to pave the way for the PLO to manage its affairs and to take the appropriate measures. The issue will be presented to the extraordinary session of the PNC, scheduled to be convened on the 20th of this month. [as published]

The Palestinian delegation will return once again to Jordan to inform the Jordanian Government of what was achieved on the Palestinian side in this regard.

Answering a question by Al-SIYASAH, Al-Hasan said the PLO will begin its contacts with Arab and friendly states to fill the vacuum created by Jordan's decision to disengage the relationships.

Regarding the issue of the salaries of West Bank employees, and whether this subject was discussed with the Jordanian side, 'Arafat's adviser said: It was agreed with Jordan the PLO will pay the salaries through Jordan and that a joint committee will be formed to supervise the payment of salaries.

Regarding 'Arafat's expected visit to Jordan, Al-Hasan said the Jordanian Government gave the Palestinian delegation a new official invitation for Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to visit Jordan. He said he expects the visit to take place before the convening of the PNC extraordinary session.

Regarding his assessment of the Jordanian Government's decision to disengage the relationships, he said the recent Jordanian decision will benefit the PLO, especially since this decision affirms its role as the side

responsible for the Palestinian people, and will help to highlight the Palestinian identity. The PLO considers this as a gain in both Arab and international arenas.

He also explained that before the Palestinian delegation's talks with the Jordanian Government, the PLO was not informed of the reality of the Jordanian decision.

He praised the talks, which the delegation held with the Jordanian officials, headed by King Husayn. He explained that these talks were very friendly and that neither side hesitated to express what was on the minds of its members about the recent Jordanian measures and means to tackle any problem resulting from them in a manner serving the objective of Jordan's decision to disengage the relationships.

On the same subject, informed Palestinian source told AL-SIYASAH that in its extraordinary session, the PNC will only discuss the issue of declaring the establishment of the independent Palestinian state and that the issue of a government-in-exile will not at all be a topic of discussion.

The confederation with Jordan will be declared as soon as the PNC agrees to the establishment of the independent state.

AL-SIYASAH also learned that an emergency meting will be held for all leaders of the Palestinian factions, without any exceptions, in Libya before the convening of the PNC session to discuss the declaration of the independent state.

A Palestinian source also said the PNC leadership wants the extraordinary session to be a closed one, attended only by PNC members.

Observers, newsmen, and guests are unlikely to be invited.

Fatah-Provisional Command Criticizes Salah Khalaf

JN1608125588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus—The Fatah-Provisional Command has condemned Salah Khalaf's recent treacherous statements, which constitute a cruel stab to our people's struggle and a stab in the back of our heroic people's uprising.

An official spokesman for the Fatah-Provisional Command said these statements, and previous ones made by the symbols of the deviationist course, come to crown the treacherous liquidation steps that were and are still being practiced by the deviationist course in the Palestinian arena. The latest of these was the so-called Abu Sharif's document.

The spokesman added Khalaf's statements which call for recognizing the Zionist entity and which constitute an attempt to find entries and foundations to justify the betrayal, became a viewpoint and a field of interpretation for the symbols of the deviationist course.

The Fatah-Provisional Command concluded its statement by urging all Palestinian and Arab national forces to expose the conspiracy of the deviationist course and to play their role to foil all liquidation and capitulatory projects being pursued by the treacherous rightists, led by Yasir 'Arafat .

Communist Party Condemnation

JN1608190288 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party today issued a press statement condemning Abu Iyad's [Salah Khalaf's] recent statements on a government-in-exile.

The statement says: Abu Iyad's recent statements have revealed that proclaiming a provisional Palestinian state is aimed at relinquishing the PLO and its charter and program in response to the American conditions to recognize and hold direct talks with the Zionist entity.

The statement calls on the national Palestinian factions to foil this step and safeguard our people's cause from the liquidationist bargains that are trying to be struck behind the backs of our masses and national forces.

Salah Khalaf on 'Peace Treaty' With Israel

LD1708204388 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Chrudinak, Khalaf remarks in Arabic with superimposed Hungarian translation throughout; no video available]

[Text] The underground leadership of the West Bank's Palestinian opposition has declared a general strike to protest the mass arrests by the Israeli authorities.

Life has come to a halt in the Gaza Strip because of the curfew ordered by the Israelis on Monday. Alajos Chrudinak has talked to Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] about the situation in the region and the Palestinian leaders' plans:

[Chrudinak] King Husayn of Jordan announced 2 weeks ago he was renouncing sovereignty over the West Bank. What does the PLO think about this? What are you going to do?

[Abu Iyad] We are now demanding the establishment of the State of Palestine, the establishment of the provisional government of this state. And what is the basis in international law of this state? It is UN Resolution 181 which in 1947 divided Palestine.

In other words, the State of Israel has come into being, whereas the State of Palestine has not yet been born.

[Chrudinak] As the PLO's number two, are you prepared to discuss this with Israeli leaders, with any Israeli leader?

[Abu Iyad] I am prepared to sit down with any of them to discuss this question, with the proviso that the final agreement must be reached at the international conference.

[Chrudinak] And you will then recognize Israel.

[Abu Iyad] Not unilaterally, but we shall mutually recognize each other. We recognize their state and they will recognize ours.

[Chrudinak] Mutually and simultaneously.

[Abu Iyad] We cannot do this without reciprocity. We are now announcing we are prepared to establish a government-in-exile and create a Palestinian state.

We will then be prepared to sit down with them at the negotiating table of the international conference to discuss our country's borders. And then we will mutually recognize each other.

I am making an honest political statement when I say I know this is not to the liking of Palestinian extremists. But I do not care, because for me the interest of my people is what is important.

[Chrudinak] I have interviewed Prime Minister Shamir, who says you want to destroy Israel. How can you convince Shamir this is not true?

[Abu Iyad] Israel must come to the international conference. Israel needs the great powers' guarantees just as much as we do. There we shall sign a peace treaty.

In the peace treaty we shall mutually recognize each other. And the great powers will act against either side violating the treaty. We are prepared to accept any guarantee demanded by Israel in this regard. In exchange, however, we, our state, also needs guarantees.

Libya Reportedly Mediating Between PLO, Iran

JN1708200888 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 Aug 88 pp 1, 22

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis, AL-ANBA'—The PLO Executive Committee will hold an emergency meeting in Tunis the day after tomorrow, Thursday, [18 August] under Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the recommendations reached by a high level committee, which was headed by Faruq Qaddumi, also known as Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, and attended by 10 members belonging to different Palestinian factions as well as independents.

Well-informed Palestinian sources told AL-ANBA' that the PLO decided to convene this emergency meeting following consultations with a number of fraternal and friendly states regarding the next steps which are expected to be announced in the coming few days.

The same sources added that the most important of these steps is the declaration of a Palestinian government-in-exile following the appearance of strong and clear indications to that effect among the Palestinian factions under the PLO umbrella, with the exception of the DFLP, led by Nayif Hawatimah.

The same sources thought that Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and DFLP assistant secretary general who arrived in Damascus last Friday, will try to persuade his comrades in the DFLP Political Bureau of the positive points in the formation of a government-in-exile.

The same sources did not rule out the possibility that 'Abd Rabbuh will hold talks with Syrian officials to improve the atmosphere of Syrian-Palestinian relations, which became lukewarm after a period of improvement following the burial of Palestinian leader martyr Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, in Damascus.

On the other hand, AL-ANBA' learned that the PLO Executive Committee chairman, who is currently visiting Libya at the official invitation of President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, may meet, following Libyan mediation, with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is currently in Tripoli.

AL-ANBA' also learned that the message carried by Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi from President Chadli Bendjedid to King Husayn is connected with recent developments in Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

The Algerian president sent the message in his capacity as chairman of the extraordinary Arab summit conference which was held 2 months ago in the Algerian capital.

PNC Said To Consider 18 Sep Meeting in Algiers

PM1608151388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Aug 88 pp 1-2

['Abd al-Bari 'Atwan report: "PNC To Convene 18 September in Algiers"]

[Excerpts] London—A Palestinian source close to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has confirmed that the PNC emergency session will be held in Algiers Sunday 18 September, that preparations are currently underway to send out invitations to members only, and that, contrary to past practice, observers will not be invited.

The source said it was unlikely invitations would be sent to Palestinian organizations which did not attend the last PNC Algiers session, such as the PFLP-GC and the dissident group led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah]. It is not clear yet whether the Abu Nidal group will be invited or not.

Yasir 'Arafat is currently holding contacts with Arab and friendly states to sound them out on the PLO's next step related to the declaration of a Palestinian government-in-exile. The contacts focus on two main points:

1. Securing the necessary funds enabling such a government to shoulder its administrative and financial responsibilities and manage the affairs of the occupied Arab territory.

2. Mobilizing international, political, and legal recognition of everything connected with the shape and duties of such a government and its representation of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territory. [passage omitted]

The political and legal committees stemming from the PNC are continuing their meetings to put the final touches to the expected formula for a Palestinian government to be submitted to the PNC for approval.

A member of the legal committee has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT there is absolutely no difference between a government-in-exile and a provisional government, that in international law there are no such names, but only the word "government" which is seen as the body running the affairs of a country and shouldering its full responsibility for the people.

He said a complete formula for such a government, its formation, and distribution of portfolios will be submitted for discussion to the next PNC session, which might be held in camera. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a PLO Executive Committee delegation headed by Mahmud 'Abbas [Abu Mazin] arrived in Cairo yesterday. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed Palestinian sources in Cairo the delegation will discuss with Egyptian officials the role Egypt might be able to play in the next phase in helping the PLO fill the legal and administrative vacuum created by the Jordanian disengagement decisions.

The sources emphasized the Palestinian delegation will brief the Egyptian side on the Palestinian Central Council's decisions, its assessment of the Jordanian steps, and the results of the recent Palestinian-Jordanian talks and Palestinian consultations regarding the declaration of an independent Palestinian state or a government-in-exile and will also explore Egyptian views on these matters.

'Arafat's political adviser, Dr Nabil Sha'th, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the question of Egypt's assistance to the PLO in filling the administrative and legal vacuum in the West Bank is currently under discussion between the two sides.

He added: Egypt is considered to be the Arab state capable of helping the PLO solve the administrative and financial problems, particularly as Israel prevents the PLO from performing this role and sending funds to the people of the West Bank, not to mention the administrative problems involved. We are satisfied with the political disengagement, but administrative matters require support.

PLO Sends Letter to UN on Occupied Territories

JN1608200088 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has received a letter from the PLO on the latest developments in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Following his meeting with Perez de Cuellar yesterday, Zuhdi al-Tarazi,the permanent PLO observer at the United Nations, explained that the PLO letter urges the United Nations to adopt the appropriate measures to safeguard the lives and security of the Palestinian citizens in accordance with Article 4 of the Geneva Convention on civilians under occupation.

In a press statement in New York yesterday, Al-Tarazi said the possibility of a UN Security Council meeting will be decided in light of the current consultations in this respect.

He said he has left the door open to the possibility of asking the UN Security Council to meet to discuss the serious state of affairs in the occupied territories.

MENA Cites Details of 'Independence Document'

NC1608064088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—MENA has obtained the text of the independence document prescribing the formation of an independent Palestinian state.

According to MENA political editor Layla 'Abd al-Jawwad, the unified Palestinian leadership will make the document public at least 1 week in advance of the PNC session slated to be held in Algeria next month. The PNC will discuss the document and ratify its various clauses.

The draft document prescribes the declaration in Jerusalem of an independent Palestinian state within the partition boundaries defined by UN Security Council Resolution 181 in 1984.

The state's capital is to be Jerusalem and its interim government is to consist of two parts, one in exile and the other on Palestinian soil.

Heading the new Palestinian state will be PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Acting as its foreign minister will be Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

Members of the PLO Executive Committee, reinforced by PFLP Secretary General George Habash and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, are to become members of the new government.

The PNC is to become the parliament of the new state with membership augmented by figures from the occupied land who are to be named in the independence document.

PLO offices abroad are to turn automatically into representations of the newly born Palestinian state.

A provisional administrative system is to be formed in the occupied lands to run various internal services such as the Departments of Health, Education, Social Affairs, Justice, Police, Agriculture, Industry, Commerce, Construction, Electricity, Water, Municipalities, and Press and Information. Hierarchies and bylaws of the aforesaid departments are to be drawn up.

Besides defining the geographical boundaries and executive structure of the new state, the independence document prescribes the formation of a legislative body in the occupied land. Members of this body, who will be named in a statement by the unified command, are to become automatically PNC members.

An administrative board is to be appointed from among members of the legislative body. The board is to assume the responsibilities of the provisional government inside the occupied homeland. Members of the board are to be chosen upon consideration of the needs for geographical distribution and professional specializations.

The transitional government is to declare, in the name of the PLO, its readiness to form a special delegation with membership from inside and outside the occupied homeland to enter into negotiations with Israel to reach a final settlement.

The political editor says the proposed negotiations for reaching a final settlement with Israel center on several points, foremost being the following:

1. The final borders between the Palestinian state and Israel;

2. The procedural arrangements to establish political unity between the two parts of the Palestinian state; namely, the West Bank and Gaza Strip;

3. Issues related to the network of Israeli settlements planted in the occupied territories;

4. The nature of the borders between the two states, as well as the nature of relations between them, with emphasis on the basic requisites needed for the survival of the state, especially the issue of water; and

5. The issue of the refugees' right of return or to compensation in accordance with UN resolutions.

It has been learned that consultations will be held with the Arab and friendly states, particularly with the Soviet Union, before the declaration of independence. The purpose of these consultations is not to request permission from these states, but to guarantee the necessary support from them.

The independence document also defines the political nature of the independent Palestinian state as a republic with an elected president, in addition to a ministerial council made up of members of the elected party or parties.

The state will allow multiple political parties and doctrines, the freedom of worship, and the exercise of various religious rituals for all religions. It will also guarantee the human, economic, and political rights of both the individual and the community.

It will act in the service of the citizen and guarantee for him a free, dignified, and happy life. It will guarantee for the citizen all the rights stipulated in the International Declaration of Human Rights, including the freedom of expression, education, and ownership.

It will also provide for him all health, social, educational, and agricultural resources so he can build a future for himself and his children.

All citizens in the occupied territories will be expected to abide by and carry out the orders and instructions of the new state, its various executive bodies and institutions, and its geographically deployed teams as represented by the popular committees which are subordinate to the Unified National Command.

The citizens will be expected to surrender their Israeli identity cards and to exchange them for Palestinian identity cards which will be issued by the interim government and distributed by the popular committees.

All foreign reporters, visitors, and tourists will be requested to obtain travel permits and entry visas to Palestinian state from the interim government's institutions.

Merchants Warned Against Selling 'Zionist Goods'
JN1608182288 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] The striking forces have issued a statement addressed to Bethlehem merchants. It says:

Our dear merchants, the popular and national committees of the uprising have through successive statements asked the merchants in our beloved homeland to boycott Zionist goods and not display them in their shops.

However, and very regrettably, some merchants are still dealing in enemy goods and are purchasing them from the Zionist markets and selling them in our local markets.

They have been so insolent that they attempted to convince some merchants boycotting the enemy goods to renounce their decision, reinstate these filthy goods in their shops, and sell them to our people.

Dear merchants, we strongly warn those who deal in Zionist products or goods and give them all only 3 days to get rid of these goods and remove them completely from the markets.

Anyone who tries to ignore this warning and defies the decision of the popular committees of the uprising will only harm himself.

We will burn and destroy all his property. We hope no merchant in this area will force us to carry out our severe punishment against him. He who warns is excused.

[Signed] The striking forces

Chad

Habre Returns From Congo Festivities, Comments

AB1708085288 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The president of the Republic [El Haj Hissein Habre] returned to Ndjamena this afternoon from Brazzaville, Congo, where he participated in the festivities marking the 25th anniversary of the Congolese Revolution.

The presidential plane landed at Ndjamena International Airport at 1600 [1500 GMT]. President Hissein Habre was welcomed on arrival by Minister of State Djidingar Dono Ngardoum, in the presence of the commander in chief of the FANT, Hassan Djamous; Ahmed Nsengu, head of the Military Secretariat; and Hassan Djambe, head of the Military Secretariat to the president. [passage omitted]

This morning, before President Hissein Habre left Brazzaville, Congolese reporters interviewed him on his impressions of the festivities of the 25th anniversary of the Congolese revolution, and this is what the head of state had to say:

[Begin Habre recording] We came to participate in the festivities marking the 25th anniversary of the Congolese revolution. My delegation and I saw the massive turnout of the Congolese people at these festivities, and an impressive parade, which was well organized.

This shows the Congolese people's dedication to the revolutionary process, and it also shows the (?high) degree of revolutionary commitment of the militants of the Congolese Labor Party.

This also basically tells us to continue to hope that the Congolese revolution is progressing in the right direction. [end recording]

The head of state was also asked about the Chad-Libya conflict and the reconstruction of Chad.

[Begin Habre recording] Since the last OAU summit, a new initiative in the search for a final solution to the unfortunate dispute between Chad and Libya has been launched.

Various contacts have taken place, notably some recent discussions in Libreville under the auspices of the OAU ad hoc committee. It was the first time the Chadian and Libyan foreign minister met. And other meetings will take place.

A new process has been set in motion, and everyone is playing his role: The OAU ad hoc committee is fully playing its role [words indistinct]. We fervently hope that all these efforts will bear fruit in the best interest of Chadians and Libyans and in the interest of the African peoples. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Women's Delegation Leaves for 3-Week PRC Visit

AB1708104488 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] A delegation of the National Council of the UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] Women's Wing, led by its chairperson, Comrade [name indistinct], left Ndjamena yesterday morning for Beijing.

The delegation, which also includes Mrs Mariam Cisse Maye and Mrs Bintou Malloum, will spend 3 weeks in the Chinese capital.

Egypt

Mubarak: Ziaul Haq Death 'Great Loss'

NC1708190188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq was killed today when his military transport plane exploded shortly after taking off from Lahore Airport, east of Islamabad.

The Presidency of the Arab Republic of Egypt has issued the following statement:

The Arab Republic of Egypt received with grief the news about the plane accident in which President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and his entourage, lost their lives.

As we share the grief of this moment with the Islamic world, we recall the late Pakistani president's supportive stands and his earnest efforts to improve the lot of his country and to clear the atmosphere among his brothers on every occasion.

We express our appreciation for his unremitting efforts to strengthen the ties between Egypt and Pakistan over the past years.

At this sad moment, the Egyptian people voice their solidarity with the brotherly Pakistani people in the face of this sudden calamity. We ask God to spare the Muslim people of Pakistan any form of hardship so that they could continue their constructive efforts both at home and across their borders and so that their country could prosper thanks to its loyal sons and leaders.

The Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to declare a 7-day state of national mourning for the death of Pakistani leader Mohammad Ziaul Haq and his entourage.

Meanwhile, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following cable to Pakistani Senate President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who is now serving as his country's acting head of state:

Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan: I received the sad news of the plane accident in which President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and his entourage lost their lives.

I was grieved by this great loss and am praying to God that the Pakistani people will get over this misfortune and continue their efforts to build their country and secure the just causes of our Islamic people.

Signed: Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Further Reportage on Visit by PLO Delegation

'Arafat Praises Cairo's Stand

NC1708183288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1753 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Aug (MENA)—Talks between the Egyptian delegation led by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Palestinian delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin) resumed this evening.

The two sides are discussing the developments in the Palestinian issue and the preparations being made for the steps which the PLO will take to coordinate with Egypt.

PLO Representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has disclosed that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat contacted the delegation to acquaint himself with the results of the delegation's talks with President Husni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials.

'Arafat expressed the organization's appreciation for Egypt's position and its readiness to extend all political and legal assistance to it.

The Egyptian-Palestinian talks began the day before yesterday. The Palestinian delegation will leave Cairo tomorrow following a 3-day visit.

Hurani on Talks

NC1708194788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1907 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Aug (MENA)—'Abdallah Hurani, official spokesman for the Palestinian delegation, made a statement following a 1-hour session of Egyptian-Palestinian talks which was held tonight.

He said that the two sides continued their discussions in light of President Husni Mubarak's instructions that Egypt should place its resources and experience at the PLO's disposal.

Hurani said Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, underlined Egypt's willingness to listen to all proposals and help the PLO formulate a reasonable and objective stand.

Hurani said that both sides have agreed that they will continue their consultations on various issues.

'Abd al-Majid: Talks 'Fruitful'

NC1708203688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Following the session of talks which he held with the Palestinian delegation this evening, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, described the talks as useful, fruitful, and important at this stage through which the Palestinian issue is passing.

He noted that President Husni Mubarak has affirmed Egypt's full and strong support for the Palestinian people's cause, which occupies a prominent place in Egypt's attention.

He said that Egypt would like to express its satisfaction with the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting and believes that such meetings should continue. Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that Egyptian-Palestinian consultations will continue, noting that a number of issues were discussed during these talks in a constructive and objective spirit.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed the existence of Egyptian-Jordanian coordination and the need to achieve tripartite Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

Regarding the declaration of a Palestinian government-in-exile, he said Egypt supports whatever the Palestinians will decide.

'Most Successful' Visit Ends

NC1808082788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—The Palestinian delegation that includes Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin) and 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee members, as well as Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Executive Committee member and political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo this morning.

In a predeparture statement, Hurani said the visit had been one of the most successful visits made by a Palestinian delegation to Cairo, thanks, he added, to the great understanding we received from President Mubarak and our brothers in the Foreign Ministry, particularly from Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

He added that the Egyptian officials had shown extreme interest in the ongoing developments in the Palestinian issue in the wake of Jordan's disengagement of its ties with the West Bank and the PLO's assumption of its full responsibilities toward the Palestinian cause and the occupied territories.

He noted the Egyptian officials had expressed their readiness to put Egypt's expertise and resources at the service of the PLO and in support of its future moves at the international level.

They also expressed complete willingness to give advice to the organization while the latter is mapping out its new policies, he added. Al-Hurani noted that it had been agreed to continue the consultations and meetings with the Egyptian officials.

It is worth noting that the Palestinian delegation is bound for Tunis, where intensive meetings are expected to be held with a view for crystallizing the political position and program in the coming stage.

'Abd al-Majid Cited

JN1808110588 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (PETRA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister has said there is Egyptian-Jordanian coordination in addition to the Egyptian-Palestinian coordination on the Palestinian question.

In a statement to PETRA following the conclusion of the Egyptian-Palestinian talks last night, he said that the talks were constructive and important at this stage of the Palestinian cause.

He said he felt the desire of the Palestinian side to build confidence with brothers in Jordan. Egypt, he added, is pleased with this. He said that the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting was fraternal and frank, and that Egypt is always eager to hold such meetings.

He said Egypt is continuing consultations and exchanging views with the Palestinians and that it welcomes them any time.

He said the talks with the Palestinian side were objective and frank. This is important at this stage, he added. He pointed out that this was the first meeting between Egypt and the PLO after Jordan's decision. He expressed the belief that other meetings are needed so that the subject [not further identified] can be crystallized.

Ghali Denounces Israel's 'Repressive Policy'

NC1808122988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—Egypt expressed its denouncement today of Israel's continued repressive policy and its expulsions and imprisonments of Palestinian people.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said that this behavior on the part of the Israeli authorities hinders efforts to provide a favorable atmosphere for the peace process in the Middle East and adds to the sufferings of the Palestinians.

Dr Ghali described Israel's repressive measures as a blatant violation of the Geneva convention which provides for the protection of civilians under military occupation. He added that they represent a clear violation of the UN Charter and Declaration of Human rights.

Dr Ghali made these statements while commenting on the Israeli decision yesterday to deport four Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to the Marj 'Uyun area in southern Lebanon.

Ghali on Efforts To Free Prisoners in Iran

NC1708155288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, disclosed today that Egypt is currently in touch with the International Red Cross regarding the fate of Egyptians held in Iranian prisons.

Egypt is seeking to ensure that these prisoners are treated like prisoners of war. He stressed that Egypt will continue to hold consultations to secure their release.

Dr Ghali pointed out that the number of Egyptians being held by Iran is lower than that cited by some press reports.

Dr Ghali mentioned that Egypt has welcomed Iraq and Iran's acceptance of the cease-fire in the Gulf. Egypt, he said, works for peace and advocates peaceful means of resolving conflicts.

Ghali noted that both Iraq and Iran are members of the Nonaligned Movement, one of whose goals is to find peaceful solutions to disputes among its members.

Dr Ghali said that Egypt has been supporting Iraq in its defense of its territories, adding that Egypt seeks good relations with all countries of the world, including Iran.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Statement on Lebanese Elections

LD1808103188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, 18 August, JANA—The brother leader of the revolution has made a statement to JANA about the presidential election in Lebanon. Follows the text of his statement:

Rivers of blood have flowed in Lebanon over the long and bitter historic struggle against the reactionary tradition which perpetuates sectarianism. This sectarianism has not solved Lebanon's problems.

We are surprised by the fact that those who have stood for nomination for the presidency in Lebanon are all from one sect, as has been the case in the past. They have stood for nomination fully disregarding the huge sacrifices which have been made fighting sectarianism.

Thus, every Muslim who considers himself qualified for the presidency of the Republic of Lebanon should present himself to the Chamber of Deputies for nomination for the presidency without any sectarian considerations.

This will lead Lebanon out of its irremediable crisis and will lead to victory over sectarianism.

It is a result of the many sacrifices made against sectarianism.

Confining the presidency to a specific sect is an injustice to the Lebanese people and shows a disregard for their historic sacrifices. It is a mockery, which we thought had been overcome in this age.

Lebanon cannot move forward as long as sectarianism is cherished and non-Maronite Lebanese are banned from ruling their country.

'Arafat, Al-Qadhdhafi Discuss Tripoli Conference

JN1608201288 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman, met with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli last night.

The two sides discussed the possibility of convening a conference in the Libyan capital that would be attended by the leaders and representatives of all the Palestinian organizations before the PNC meeting in Algeria.

This is the second meeting between Brother Abu 'Ammar and the Libyan leader in less than 1 week.

'Arafat Ends Visit

LD1708204688 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The brother leader Abu 'Ammar, [Yasir 'Arafat] chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and general commander of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has ended his visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah which lasted 2 days and during which he held talks with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

According to a responsible Palestinian source, the Palestinian-Libyan talks covered the latest developments in the Palestinian cause on the Palestinian, Arab, and international planes in addition to discussion of the means to strengthen and escalate the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territories.

Sudan

Armed Forces General Staff Dismissed 17 Aug

JN1808131188 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Aug (SUNA)—Following recommendations from the commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, the State Council yesterday issued a decree to relieve the Armed Forces General Staff—comprising Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Faysal Mansur Shawar; Deputy for Operations Lt Gen Mu'tasim al-Saraj; Deputy for Administration Lt Gen Al-Sir Muhammad Ahmad; and Deputy for Logistics Lt Gen 'Umar Muhammad 'Umar—from their posts.

They were replaced by Major General Mahdi Abu Nimr as chief of staff; Maj Gen 'Abd al-Rahmand Sa'id as deputy chief of staff for operations; Maj Gen Muhammad Zayn as deputy for administration; and Maj Gen Tawir al-Sanusi as deputy for logistics.

In press statements, Commander in Chief Lt Gen Fathi Muhammad Ahmad stated that these changes are normal.

They were dictated by the Armed Forces' circumstances and the need to achieve homogeneity in their command.

There were no other reasons behind these changes. The four appointed officers will be promoted to the rank of lieutenant general.

Foreign Minister Makes 'Strong Attack' on BBC

JN1708151588 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Aug (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih yesterday launched a strong attack against the BBC.

He described its doubts on the distribution of relief material as allegations and fabrications.

In statements carried today by certain Sudanese newspapers, Abu Salih denounced the BBC's accusations against the government and Sudanese Army of misconduct in relief distribution.

He pointed out that this is a biased campaign.

He added that there were 119 relief airplanes, of which the Arab states contributed over 100. He praised the Arab brothers in this regard.

The BBC had attacked the Sudanese Government and accused it of misconduct in distributing the relief material for the citizens, who were affected by the streams and rain that swept the country.

Further Reportage on Nile Flooding, Rains

Omdurman on 'Interruption'

EA1708164988 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brother comrades in arms, brother listeners everywhere: God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

We meet you again after an interruption for technical reasons beyond our control and hope that our contact with you will continue at the same time and on the same frequency. We pray to God Almighty to save our country from disasters and calamities.

60 Percent of Buildings Down

EA1708162688 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Floods and rains have led to the collapse of 60 percent of buildings in (Al-Dirwishab) area [northern Khartoum] and a female student died yesterday morning. The area is facing a crisis of drinking water and food.

A people's committee in (AL-Dirwishab) and a ministerial relief committee have reached agreement on evacuating citizens to the main street. The evacuation did not take place because the police force arrested the chairman and members of the committee by mistake. [passage omitted]

Criticism of Open Dams Rejected

EA1708163288 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The national capital continues to be faced with the threat of floods. The same applies to the islands of the Northern Region. The day before yesterday there was an average rainfall which continued from 0600 to 1930. This led to interruptions in the flow of traffic.

Eng Muhammad Bashir Jamma', minister of irrigation and water resources, said that the level of the Nile fell slightly at Sennar and Rusayris as well as at the border region of Dem where a rise was recorded, reaching a level of 13 meters yesterday morning.

His excellency attributed the lack of sufficient information on the water level in the Ethiopian highlands to lack of cooperation in this area between Sudan and Ethiopia.

His excellency said that the committee to deal with the threat of the floods is laying down rules to deal with the floods and to collect information in the capital and in the regions.

He pointed out that the committee will visit the eastern Nile area and the Northern and Central Regions in the next few days. His excellency said that the committee has drawn up plans to deal with the floods in cooperation with popular organizations by providing machines, fuel, and financial credits.

His excellency denied that the recent rise in the levels of the Nile was due to opening the dams and pointed out that the dams were normally kept open in the fall to avoid silting at the hydroelectric stations.

Northern Agriculture Threatened

EA1808095788 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The floods have destroyed more than 50 percent of Badin Island. The inhabitants have lost all their wealth: possessions, dwellings, and furnishings; reserve crops such as sorghum, wheat, and groundnuts; and livestock.

Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Uthman, health minister [title as heard] for Argo and (Al-Hadir), yesterday returned from Dunqulah. He said that the islands of (Mutarnnati), (Binnanarti), and Bullinarti have been partially destroyed and that there are questions about other islands.

Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab said that the bulwarks and bridges the people set up around the islands are not sufficient to resist any further rise in the level of the Nile. Neither can they stand up to storms and winds.

His excellency said that more than 2,000 families had been affected by the flood disaster and added that the inhabitants of the affected islands had been transferred to the east and west banks of the Nile. Some of them are living in the open.

Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab attributed the gravity of the situation to the fact that there is only one pontoon at Dunqulah, which has caused the slow transfer of the inhabitants.

Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab clarified that all the agricultural projects on the islands or the Nile banks had been completely covered by water, and the floods had knocked out about 4,000 water pumps and water machines. This, he said, will pose a threat to the winter agricultural season.

He said that thousands of date palms had been destroyed, adding that 90 percent of the palms could not be preserved, as they were surrounded by water. He said that the situation urgently required large quantities of empty gunny sacks and tents for shelters for the people.

His excellency pointed out that there were no epidemics, but that they were likely to occur in such circumstances.

A delegation consisting of Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Uthman, Dr Ahmad Ali al-Imam [not further identified], Hasan Fathi [not further identified], and the deputy governor of the Northern Region, visited the Dunqulah area last Sunday [14th August]. They were scheduled to hold a meeting this morning with the area inhabitants at the journalists' union.

Nile Rises at Khartoum

JN1708184488 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum Aug 17 (SUNA) The River Nile has continued its increase in the water level which registered 16.59 meters at the national capital with .3 meter increase compared to yesterday's level and only .5 meter short of the 1946 record level of 16.66 meters.

The 1946 floods were the highest registered so far, during this century.

The Irrigation Ministry has furthermore warned that the increase will continue during the upcoming couple of days and said the increase is expected to be the highest in both the national capital and the northern provinces.

The Ministry has urged citizens to take precautionary meaures for facing the expected floods.

Menwhile the death toll of the flood's victims in the national capital has reached 63 persons.

The number of the houses devastated by the floods has reached 117,461 houses according to the latest figures so far registered in the capital. The figures show that about more than 643 animals have perished.

Khartoum Death Toll at 63

JN1808111988 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 18, (SUNA)—The death toll of the recent rains and floods in the national capital of Khartoum had risen to 63 by noon yesterday.

The number of deaths increased to 24 at Omdurman area, to seven at eastern Nile while the casualty toll remained unchanged at Khartoum north, where 13 people died and in Khartoum at which 20 died.

The number of houses that where totally or partially damaged by the rains in the capital increased to im. 461. [as received]

The figure was 115,016 before the latest rains in Khartoum. Some 643 animals were killed during the floods catastrophe here.

Government To Spray Khartoum With Pesticides

JN1708154888 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Aug (SUNA)—The Health Ministry will today begin a campaign to spray the capital with pesticides to face the contagious diseases expected in the current circumstances following the rain and streams that swept the country. These diseases are diarrhea, typhoid, pediatric diseases and so forth.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-SUDANI, Health Minister Dr Ohaj Muhammad Musa said that emergency medicines are available for the capital and the regions.

He explained that the government will launch in the coming few days a cleaning campaign for the national capital, with the assistance of youth organizations and prisons. He pointed out that the competent organs promised to provide the vehicles and equipment for the spraying campaign.

Agriculture Minister on Locusts, Libyan Aid

EA1708210388 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Agriculture Minister al-Fatih al-Tijani said in press statements yesterday that locusts have increased 50 times over what they had been in Kordofan and Darfur regions. He pointed out that the Agriculture Ministry needs 10 more aircraft and 45 small vehicles, in addition to 10 large vehicles, to deal with the situation.

His excellency said that if the matter is not decided within a month from now, then the situation will be very difficult and the agricultural season will be threatened with failure.

Dr al-Tijani pointed out that he will visit the Libyan Jamahiriyah next Saturday (20 August) to discuss the possibility of supplying Sudan with aircraft, vehicles, and insecticides. [passage omitted]

Army Destroys 'Rebel Forces' Camp, Kills 453

JN1708183788 Khartoum SUNA in English 1805 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 17 (SUNA)—The Sudanese Armed Forces have completely destroyed a camp for rebel forces in the area of Al-Daym north of Waw, capital of Bahr al-Ghazal Region, a military spokesman announced.

The spokesman said in a press statement released here today that the Armed Forces have inflicted heavy casualties upon the rebel forces of Col. John Garang bringing the death toll to 453 rebels.

The Armed Forces have seized a number of weapons ammunitions besides some cattles record tapes and very important documents" the spokesman said. [no open quote as received]

Three soldiers were martyred while other 20 injured" he added. [no open quote as received]

SPLA Battalion Defects, Joins Anya Nya II

JN1708185088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1800 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 17 (SUNA)—A battalion has defected from Sudan People's Liberation Army SPLA and joined the friendly troops dubbed the Anya Nya Two a military spokesman announced today.

The battalion, which is composed of 700 militarymen has joined the Anya Nya Two troops in Akobo area current Aug 2 the spokesman said adding the members of the said battalion were recruited by the SPLA following their withdrawal Pibor area Upper Nile region two years ago.

"The recruited members of the battalion were trained in Ethiopia" the spokesman said adding they were sent to Akobo in a military operations-at a time when the friendly troops were combing the area.

The spokesman said the battalion has immediately joined the friendly Anya Nya Two and cooperated with them in military operations against the SPLA in (Betam) area, between Akobo and Pibor.

Kuwait

Diwan Expresses 'Grief' Over Ziaul Haq Death

LD1808095588 Kuait KUNA in English 0816 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 18 (KUNA)—Kuwait on Thursday declared a three-day national mourning in tribute to the late Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq who was killed in a plane crash yesteday.

A statement from the amiri diwan expressed deep grief and sorrow for Zia's death and extended condolences to the people and government of sisterly Pakistan.

The diwan also ordered national flags to be lowered to half mast at all government ministries and departments, as well as Kuwaiti diplomatic missions abroad.

His highness the amir deputised Minister of Planning and Acting Health Minister 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi to head an official delegation to attend the funeral of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq Saturday in Islamabad.

Decision Made To Help Finance Peacekeeping Force

LD1708134988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1210 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 17 (KUNA—Kuwait said on Wednesday it was willing to make financial contributions to cover part of the costs of the United Nations peacekeeping force which will monitor a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq.

The decision was reached in a cabinet session which reviewed the situation in the Gulf region and preparations for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the Gulf war, the cabinet spokesman said.

The contribution stems from "the positive and constructive role Kuwait is playing for bringing about the hoped-for peace between the two warring countries," said the spokesman, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid.

The cabinet session, chaired by H.H. Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, also expressed hope that direct negotiations between Iran and Iraq would be conducive to "positive results," the spokesman said.

The direct talks would hopefuly clear the way for durable and comprehensive peace between the two warring countries and be the first step toward restoring stability and prosperity to the region, he added.

While Kuwait is ready to partly finance the UN observers force, "it wants to underscore the need for the world community to fully bear its responsibilities under the UN charter towards peacekeeping" in the region, the spokesman said.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Sends Cable on Ziaul Haq's Death

JN1808092388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0510 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Muscat, 17 Aug (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman has sent a condolence cable to Pakistani Senate Speaker Ghulam Ishaq Khan on the death of Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

He said in the cable: We received with sorrow the news of the president's death. The Omani people and I join you and the Pakistani people in your grief.

We pray that God has mercy on him and grants patience to his family. For to God we shall all return.

PDRY

USSR's Brutents Visits YSP Central Committee

EA1708210988 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Excerpt] A delegation of the CPSU Central Committee, headed by Comrade Karen Brutents, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy head of its International Department, arrived in Aden this morning on a visit lasting several days at the invitation of the YSP Central Committee.

In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Comrade Brutents expressed great pleasure for the invitation extended to him to visit Democratic Yemen and meet comrades in the YSP to cement relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries and parties.

He said the Soviet Union and the Soviet Communist Party were very interested in Democratic Yemen and the Yemeni Socialist Party. At the end of his statement he said his visit will result in positive outcomes and impressions. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

'Abd al-Ghani Receives Letter From Al-Mahdi

JN1708140088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, today received Brother Dr Ibrahim al-Amin, Sudanese minister of state for workers abroad [title as heard], who is on a visit to our country.

The Sudanese minister conveyed to the prime minister a letter from his brother Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on bilateral relations.

Talks during the meeting focused on ways to develop and strengthen relations between the two fraternal peoples and on the flood in Sudan.

The meeting was attended by Brother Ahmad Luqman, labor and social affairs minister and member of the Standing Committee; and Brother Ahmad al-Hardalu, Sudanese ambassador in Sanaa.

Foreign Minister al-Iryani Receives Libyan Envoy
JN1708141288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, received a message today for Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya.

Brother Jalal al-Dughaymi, the Libyan leader's envoy, conveyed the message during a meeting with the foreign minister.

Receives Japanese Official
JN1708143388 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, today received the chief of the Middle East desk at the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

The two officials discussed relations between the two friendly countries in particular and current international issues in general.

The head of the International Department at the Foreign Ministry and the Japanese charge d'affaires in Sanaa attended.

CPSU Central Committee Delegation Concludes Visit
JN1708150788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Karen Nersesovich Brutents, CPSU Central Committee candidate member and deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, and his accompanying delegation left Sanaa today after a 1-week visit to our country.

Brutents conveyed, during the visit, a message to Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from the Soviet leader.

He also met with a number of officials from the Central Planning Organ and the General People's Congress.

In a statement to SABA', the Soviet official said the president leader affirmed, during the meeting, the depth of traditional and old relations between the two countries.

The president also affirmed that the two political leaderships in the two friendly countries are eager to develop and strengthen these relations, the Soviet official said.

Brutents said that the delegation was acquainted with the components and activities of the General People's Congress and met with members of the congress.

He said that the delegation was also acquainted with plans to expand the General People's Congress and with its role in Yemeni society. Brutents added that he explained to the members of the General People's Congress the present activities of the CPSU, which is witnessing a rebuilding process.

He expressed satisfaction with our country's concern for this process and its support for it.

The Soviet official praised the various development activities in our country which he, and his accompanying delegation, noticed during their tours of some of the governorates in the Republic. He expressed thanks and appreciation for the hospitality.

Brutents was seen off by Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee; Colonel 'Ali 'Uthrub, chief of the Civil Registration Department and member of the third General Congress of the General People's Congress; and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

President Sends Condolences on Ziaul Haq Death
JN1808104788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)—President Saddm Husayn has sent a cable of condolence to Acting Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan over the death of Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

The cable reads: With profound regret, we received the news of the death of late Mohammad Ziaul Haq. While extending to Your Excellency and to his family our sincere condolences, we pray to God Almighty to protect the friendly Pakistani people from all evils.

Ramadan Interviewed on Cease-Fire, Arab Issues
JN1708161888 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 Aug 88 p 22

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, by an unidentified reporter in Cairo—date not given]

[Text] [Question] What drew people's attention is that the Iraqi stand used to basically link a cease-fire and a peace treaty with direct talks with Iran.

However, it seems that new developments have changed the Iraqi stand.

Could you tell us about these developments and how do you explain the recent stand announced by President Saddam Husayn?

[Answer] We in Iraq said right from the beginning and more than once that the war will not stop through mediation although we agreed to all mediators, nor through international resolutions although we welcomed all such resolutions.

Nevertheless, we did not reject the Iranian acceptance of the Security Council resolution because we seek peace. Therefore, we laid down a basis to prevent such an attempt [not further identified] if it existed and said there should be direct talks under the auspices of the UN secretary general.

Therefore, we insisted on direct talks before the implementation of any step or clause in the resolution.

[Question] This makes us ask about the reason behind the change in the Iraqi stand as expressed in President Saddam Husayn's statement.

[Answer] We found out that some parties were trying to equate the Iraqi and Iranian stands although Iraq had accepted the resolution. Following consultations with the Arab states and meetings by the Iraqi leadership we announced our readiness to cease fire on condition the cease-fire be followed by direct talks.

We also said Iran will be held responsible for the shedding of new blood if this agreement is violated.

[Question] How true are reports that Iraq changed its stand under Arab and international pressures?

[Answer] Untrue. I want to stress the Arabs fully supported Iraq. It suffices to note what the seven-member committee, which recently met in Baghdad, said in its statement which fully adopted the Iraqi stand.

We insisted on direct talks because we do not seek a mere suspension of the war, but an overall peace.

[Question] How do you view the results of your recent tour of the Arab Gulf states?

[Answer] Let us admit that due to the geography of the region and the developments of the 8-year war, the Gulf states are concerned about how the conflict develops.

We would like to recall that the eighth paragraph of the Security Council resolution stipulates the establishment of peace in the Gulf region and the fourth paragraph refers to a peace treaty in the region, in addition to a peace treaty between Iraq and Iran. That was the reason behind my tour. I can emphasize that the stand of the Gulf states' leaders was identical to the Iraqi stand.

[Question] Iraq has introduced its right in Shatt al-'Arab and the exercise of this right as an important point in the Iraqi peace plan. What is the explanation of this stand?

[Answer] Legally, and according to all agreements, Iraq has a clear right in Shatt al-'Arab. Iraq considers the Shatt its major terminal. It has been full of destroyed tankers, mines, and other things since the beginning of the war.

Thus, Iran will be able to benefit from the entire Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz facilities immediately after the cease-fire is put into effect.

On the other hand, Iraq will not benefit from that. This is something we will not allow.

We call for early measures regarding Shatt al-'Arab. We also call on the UN Security Council to adopt such measures so that the two sides can have equal benefits.

[Question] What is your evaluation of the practices of the UN Security Council member states during the recent consultations to secure a cease-fire?

[Answer] I believe the UN Security Council member states act in accordance with their duties and that the secretary general implements an approved plan.

However, our stand is declared. We adhere to direct talks. This stand is not motivated by a certain quarter. It is out of concern for peace.

[Question] What is the status of Iraqi-Egyptian relations now, after your second visit to Cairo?

[Answer] Actually, the nature of Egyptian-Iraqi relations in the recent past is known. On the whole, these relations constitute a climbing graph within the framework of the expansion of coordination and cooperation in all fields without exception.

As you well know, we recently moved to a new stage in the nature and level of the two countries' concerns, especially the two Egyptian and Iraqi leaderships, in order to reach a special and exemplary formula of bilateral cooperation.

From a practical point of view, Dr 'Atif Sidqi's recent visit to Cairo and the meetings of the higher committee and many various committees have contributed toward laying down an advanced basis for cooperation.

We are optimistic about the future of Iraqi-Egyptian relations. The political domain in the relations has enjoyed special attention by the two countries' leaderships, especially regarding the important and central issues facing the Arab nation, headed by the Iraq-Iran war in all its stages.

I believe that both Arab and international arenas have witnessed a unified stand and coordination by the two countries, an active role by Egyptian diplomacy, and President Mubarak's adoption of the Arab stand which serves Iraq and the Arab issue.

At one of the hardest stages—the stage of diplomatic activity to solve this issue—President Saddam and we found that President Mubarak must be aware of the developments of the recent weeks: the nature of the Iraqi stand, and the need for a continued Egyptian role in supporting Iraq. We have found a similar readiness and joint understanding by President Mubarak.

[Question] However, Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah's visit to Iraq, which did not take place at the time of war, but during the talk about peace, raised many questions, did it not?

[Answer] I do not know why such questions are raised. Officials of the two countries exchange visits. The Iraqi defense minister visited Cairo previously. The current circumstances and the nature of coordination between the two countries call for this visit.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah's visit can be understood within this framework. Therefore it was necessary and natural.

[Question] Israeli statements have been apprehensive about the end of the Iraq-Iran war. Israeli officials were also apprehensive that the transfer of 120 tanks to Jordan would exacerbate the Arab-Israeli conflict. What do you have to say to this?

[Answer] Israel is the sole beneficiary of any Arab weakness. It gets infuriated at any new and positive Arab state of affairs. It is vexed by the Iraqi victory because this victory was scored against a country whose population is around 50 million and not a country whose population is only 3 or 4 million.

The Israelis have been sowing destruction in the region over the past 40 years. This must be stopped. As for the tanks which were given as a gift to Jordan, everyone knows the status of our relations with Jordan.

Over the years of the war, Jordan has constituted a strategic depth for Iraq. Jordan also is facing Israel along a 680 km front. Therefore, it was only natural that we carry out such an action.

[Question] Do you not believe that some of the Iranian opposition factions are now facing a real dilemma following the recent developments and the cease-fire?

[Answer] I do not believe that the Iranian opposition or some of its factions are facing a real dilemma. They all call for peace.

The Iranian opposition factions held two conferences but failed to form a unified front. However, they all agreed on the principle of peace.

[Question] Is there an economic plan that conforms with the new developments of the postwar stage?

[Answer] It goes without saying that Iraq has been planning for the postwar stage for a long time. With God's help, there will be no interruption or transitional period between the stage of war and that of peace. There will be continuity between the two stages.

Iraq has also made accurate assessments of the positive and negative results that the war has produced. All the positive results will be exploited while the negative ones will be tackled. We will try to make up for the delay that the war has caused.

[Question] Let us now discuss topics unrelated to the war. PLO sources said the PLO has asked Iraq if it can hold the PNC session in Baghdad. Was this request approved?

[Answer] They need not request such a thing. However, we told the PLO that Iraq will be ready to host any meeting if it cannot be held elsewhere. In principle, we have no reservations as to convening a PNC session. If they cannot find another venue, then Iraq welcomes them.

[Question] Arab reactions to Jordan's measures to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank vary between those who support, those who have expressed reservations, and those who have rejected these measures. Where does Iraq stand?

[Answer] We believe that the recent measures are a translation of the Algiers summit resolution. The formula that was agreed upon in Algiers had been prepared by the PLO. Jordan did not object to this formula.

What took place is a translation of this resolution. We appeal to Jordan and the PLO to seriously and jointly discuss their fraternal relations and to base them on trust.

Iraq and Egypt adopt the same stand on this issue. We place ourselves in the service of accord between the two parties.

94 Reporters Arrive To Cover Cease-Fire

JN1808115488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)—Ninety-four reporters representing world radio and television networks as well as newspapers and magazines have arrived in Baghdad to cover the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran which will take place the day after tomorrow, Saturday.

They were accompanied by the UN Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group which arrived in Baghdad on 16 and 17 August.

Among the press establishments, there are reporters representing 10 U.S. television networks, 4 Japanese television companies, 2 Canadian networks, and other networks from Brazil, Britian, and the FRG.

Libyan Envoy Departs After Delivering Message

JN1708171688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, left Baghdad today following a brief visit to Iraq.

The Libyan envoy conveyed a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He also conveyed congratulations on Iraq's victories.

INA Editor on International, 'Imperialist' Forces

JN1808064588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0300 GMT 18 Aug

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: The INA political editor has said: How will some international forces behave toward the Arab nation, forefronted by Iraq, in the Arab-Khomeyniite conflict following a cease-fire?

We said more than once that certain forces with known ambitions, adopt options in favor of Iran against Iraq. These forces do so whenever they are asked to take sides or decide on this or that issue.

We explained the reasons behind this more than once. Among the most important reasons is that these forces view the Iranian situation, particularly the current situation, as opening the doors for possible ambitions.

Such ambitions may be expanded in a way that will satisfy the aspirations of those who are greedy and seek domination. Meanwhile, Iraq's doors are only open for legitimate, balanced interests and relations due to the consistency and stability of the regime along with its way of thinking, its policies, and its traditions.

This is also due to the Iraqi people's rallying around their regime. In contrast, the Iranian regime is characterized by inconsistency, instability, unclear thinking and policy, and a shaken relationship between the Iranian people and their regime.

Moreover, these international forces, led by some imperialist forces, have created a special equation based on the need to preoccupy the Arab nation with its neighbors on the one hand, and the so-called Israel's security on the other.

This applies whenever these forces find the Arabs' power growing and becoming able to undermine what had been forced upon them so that Arabs will be capable of running all their affairs and regaining their usurped rights in Palestine.

Iran is foremost among the forces used by Zionism and imperialism to counter the growing Arab capability in order to keep the situation within the "familiar" framework and also in order not to allow Arabs to promote their situation so that they may have better prospects for life, for construction, and for defending their own rights and international options.

Based on this analysis, the caution we exercised in dealing with these circles throughout the 8 years of war and even before the war, was the same caution we exercised toward the Zionist entity and the Khomeyni regime and earlier the shah's regime. When the war was in Iraq's favor during the battles between Iran and Iraq these parties issued feverish and hostile statements.

We often discovered conspiracies and collusion in granting military information and also in supplying arms to Iran and giving it advice to harm and weaken Iraq, that is, according to what they have said and continue to say.

When the Iranians scored any military achievement, despite modest and heavy losses, encouragement from dark corners known to every noble Arab would be given. When they failed and weakened, some influential international parties would encourage them to continue the war in a way that made them imagine they could continue to harm Iraq and its military forces.

It came as a big surprise and a great blow when Al-Faw was liberated in a lightning strike. Strikes continued through the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah" and "Muhammad Rasul Allah" operations.

The bulk of men and equipment prepared by the charlatans over several years was destroyed in only 3 months. Advisors and backers would not provide what was necessary to stop the collapse and only offered urgent advice to accept Security Council Resolution No 598, which was rejected by Iran for a full year without the international community being able to adopt any effective measure against it.

Through Iran's acceptance of the resolution, those suspicious forces did not want primarily to achieve a just and honorable peace, but to save collapsing Iran from an imminent catastrophe on all levels and in all fields, starting with the military aspect and ending with indefinate developments in Iran's domestic political aspect, including the possibility of changing the Khomeyni regime.

In all our military operations, and in all our other practices, we were aware of this and put it into our account without any hesitation. This was at the top of the considerations that prompted us to achieve six of the largest military operations in the history of the war in only 3 months. This, as well as other factors, has driven mad some parties entrenched in positions of influence in international politics.

Therefore, when we learned that Iran had accepted Resolution No 598, we became cautious of treacherous arrows, hidden in political formulas and methods, after treacherous military arrows were destroyed on the battlefield.

So, will those who are rushing to save the Khomeyni regime from the abyss be in such a hurry that they will reveal their anti-Iraq and anti-Arab cards and policies even at the last chapter of war and peace?

The answer to this will be known after the official cease-fire begins on 20 August 1988.

However, the strength to make treacherous arrows backfire, and the capability to destroy these arrows, are represented in the will and awareness of our people and bold Armed Forces, and in their full interaction with the will and capability of the leadership. God is great and accursed be the lowly.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Cited on Iranian 'Tricks'

JN1808110288 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 18, INA—The Iraqi daily AL-JUMHURIYAH warned the international community against the tricks of the rulers in Tehran stressing that they did not change their ideological base from which they started to carry out aggression and expansion, but they only changed a little in their method through their expressions about it.

In its editorial entitled: "When the Invaders Wear the Liberators' Clothes", the daily said here today that the rulers in Tehran stem from the logic of the invader who claims that they are not invaders but liberators of the peoples and they are assigned to convey their formed message to the peoples by force.

The daily added that the Iranian rulers did not depart from the logic of aggression and expansion and they are still talking about the same idea despite the failure and defeat inflected on their aggressive experience.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily went on to say that the international community and all its governments and committees must well understand the Iranian rulers and must deal with them concerning the implementation of the Security Council Resolution No 598 and establishing comprehensive and permanent peace according to this understanding.

Otherwise, peace will be neither comprehensive nor lasting but it will be a temporary truce starting today to end tomorrow or the day after.

The daily stressed that Iraq is ready to extend the hand of peace and friendship to the peoples of Iran on condition that the Iranian rulers must show a similar keenness on establishing comprehensive and lasting peace and to retreat from the logic of invasion and invaders and must stop their silly threats and baseless lies.

Likud Ministers Reject Minister Sharon's Plan

TA1708180188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] A short time ago the Likud ministers rejected Sharon's plan to extend Israeli law to the territories included in the Allon Plan and other areas not included in it.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that at the end of the meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir summed up the position of the Likud ministers, according to which the Likud adheres to the Camp David Accords and the continued struggle for peace, security, and Eretz Yisra'el in accordance with Israel's international commitments.

2 Reservists Jailed for Refusing Military Service

TA1708144788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Two more reservists, members of the Yesh Gvul movement, were sentenced to prison today for refusing to serve beyond the Green Line. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Staff Sergeant Uri Lamdani and Corporal Yonatan Greenfeld were each sentenced to 28 days in prison.

The spokesman of Yesh Gvul points out that 33 movement members refusing to serve in the territories, both soldiers and officers, have been sentenced to prison over the last few months.

Reportage on Deportations to Southern Lebanon

4 Deported

TA1708172188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Four residents of the Gaza Strip, three Fatah men and a member of Islamic Jihad, were deported today to southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Moti Amir has learned that two are residents of Gaza, while the other two are residents of Rafah. The four elected to forgo appealing their deportation to the High Court of Justice, and the appeals committee of the IDF's Southern Command recommended that the deportation orders be executed.

Our correspondent has learned that 25 deportations orders were served today to heads of the popular committees and leading agitators in the territories: 15 of them from Judaea and Samaria, and 10 from Gaza.

Deportees Named

TA1708175088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The deportation orders against four activists of the popular committees in the territories were issued on 7 July 1988 by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command. The four men had been involved in organizing and leading the uprising in the Gaza Strip. They were deported today after all the legal procedures were exhausted.

The deportees are: Muhammad 'Abdallah Isma'il Sabri and Ahmad Fu'ad Mustafa Abu Mu'aylaq of Gaza; and Yusri Darwish al-Humsi and Dr Fathi 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Shaqaqi. [passage omitted]

Deportation Order Issued Against Venezuelan

TA1708184788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 Aug 88 p 5

[Report by Oren Kohen, Shim'on Elqabetz, Ya'ir Fidel, Gila Razin, Edi Gal, Eli Khalifa, and Buqi Na'e]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A deportation order has been issued against 22-year-old Kamil Mahmud Adamadi, a student at Al-Najah University, who was charged with participating in incidents in recent months. Adamadi, a resident of the village of Huwarrah in the Nabulus area, was born in Venezuela and returned to his village in 1970. He was arrested on 27 July 1988. Legally, his situation is similar to that of Mubarak Awad because Adamadi holds a Venezuelan passport. Adamadi said he would appeal to the High Court of Justice.

An administrative detention order was issued yesterday against Jinan al-Bitar, head of the Nabulus branch of the Red Crescent. Al-Bitar was arrested a few months ago and was found in the possession of over 100,000 dinars. Security sources claim that the money was intended to finance the uprising. She was tried on this charge a few days ago and was given a 3-month prison sentence. [passage omitted]

Peres: No 'Mass Treatment' in Deportation Policy

TA1808071588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Following yesterday's deportations, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning said that whoever is a member of the popular committees is taking risks. Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat heard Shim'on Peres' remarks:

[Begin recording] [Peres] I believe that once the local committees were outlawed, the conclusions should have been drawn. As far as I know, whenever somebody becomes a candidate for deportation his case is examined very thoroughly. There is no mass treatment here; each case is dealt with on an individual basis.

[Ben-Porat] The foreign minister said he is aware of the fact that the deportations may meet with international opposition, but the Israeli Government is primarily responsible for the security of its citizens and must take whatever step is necessary to meet this end. [end recording]

All 'Legal Means' Used Against Local Committees

TA1808084988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Aug 88 p 2

[Report by defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpt] The defence establishment will use every legal means at its disposal to cope with the Palestinians' local committees, which have become the nucleus maintaining the uprising and determining the behaviour of the Palestinian population, Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday.

Between 30 and 40 per cent of the violent incidents in the territories are between Palestinians, he said, such as attacks on shop-owners, municipal leaders and mukhtars and their families. The IDF, he added, recently destroyed the homes of two men who threw petrol bombs at the homes of shop-keepers.

Rabin was addressing a conference on "The Uprising in the Territories: Causes, Consequences and Media Coverage," at the Hebrew University's Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace. [passage omitted]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Stonethrower Wounded by IDF

TA1708141088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] A resident of Samaria was wounded in the leg by the gunfire of IDF soldiers near the village of 'Azzun. The incident occurred when a civilian bus was stoned and its windshields were smashed. An IDF patrol accompanying the bus chased the assailants. The soldiers ordered the rioters to stop and fired shots in the air. The rioters did not stop and the soldiers fired at their legs, wounding a local resident. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 17 August adds that "a curfew has been imposed on the village of 'Azzun."]

Our correspondent in the territories 'Eran Ben-Porat reports that in the wake of the serious events on the Qalqilyah-Kefar Sava road, the Committee for Safe Travel sent telegrams to the defense minister and the prime minister. The telegrams call attention to the deterioration in the safety situation in the area.

Bayt Hanina Riot Dispersed

TA1708165288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] A riot occurred this afternoon in Bayt Hanina, north of Jerusalem, following the funeral of Badakh Nabil Mustafa who committed suicide yesterday while detained in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that IDF soldiers and policemen dispersed the riot.

Gaza Woman Wounded

TA1708164988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] In Gaza today, a woman was injured by IDF gunfire during the dispersal of riots. This was reported by our correspondent Moti Amir. Elsewhere in the Gaza Strip there were gatherings.

This evening military sources told our correspondent that the Al-Shati' resident who died yesterday during the dispersal of a riot died of natural causes and not as a result of inhaling tear gas.

Dead Girl Found Near Ramallah

TA1708190788 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The body of a youngster found in the industrial zone of Al-Birah near Ramallah is that of 18-year-old Ziva Goldovsky from Holon. An investigation conducted by the Judaea District Police shows that the late girl was shot in the head. Our correspondent has also learned that according to various testimonies, the late girl had friendly relations with local residents in Judaea and Samaria.

Gaza Strip 'Quiet'

TA1708190388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi reports that quiet prevails in the Gaza Strip at the moment. The general curfew remains in effect. There were only local disturbances during the day. Three residents of the Gaza Strip were wounded by gunfire during the dispersal of riots, two of them in Jabalyah and the third in the Al-Burayj refugee camp.

6 Wounded in Nabulus Area

TA1708201588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Six Arab residents were slightly wounded this evening during the dispersal of riots in the casbah of Nabulus and the nearby village of Ra's al-'Ayn.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the hospital in Janin this evening notified the Civil Administration of the death of a girl wounded in the head by a stone. Our correspondent points out that stonethrowing incidents took place this afternoon in the Janin area.

Further on 17 Aug Incidents

TA1808091588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Aug 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg, Kenneth Kaplan, and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the West Bank, a youth was shot and wounded by troops in 'Azzun after rocks were thrown at an Israeli bus, smashing a windshield. Soldiers riding behind the bus gave chase.

Sources in Nabulus said five persons were wounded in clashes between rioters and troops at the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp, three more were wounded in Nabulus.

In Gaza, at least three people, including a 12-year-old boy, were shot and wounded yesterday and more than 100 people reportedly treated for beatings and gas inhalation as residents violated the curfew. In the West Bank, 10 rioters were reported shot and wounded in clashes with troops in Nabulus and at 'Azzun, near Qalqilyah.

In the Gaza Strip, the curfew was due to be lifted from most of Gaza City, Khan Yunus, Rafah, and Dayr al-Balah, and the Al-Burayj and Al-Mughazi camps.

Palestinian sources said five people were shot and wounded yesterday, two of them critically. UNRWA reports said that among those shot was a nine-year-old boy at the Al-Nusayrat camp and a 15-year-old at Tall al-Shaykh Ridwan. However, military sources confirmed only the injury of two teenage boys in Jabalyah and another youngster whose age was not known in Al-Burayj. The Civil Administration reported the injury of a woman in Jabalyah, later identified as Fatma 'Abd Rabi.

Information was scanty, as movement was restricted. Hospital sources were reluctant to reveal details without the Military Government's authorization.

Palestinian accounts suggested considerable force was used in dispersing rioters. In Jabalyah, soldiers fired live ammunition, reportedly hitting one Palestinian in the chest and another in the thigh and testicles.

Many people were beaten throughout the Strip and an UNRWA mobile unit in Al-Nusayrat reportedly treated 12 members of one family for gas inhalation.

Meanwhile life in the Jewish region of Gush Qatif continued uninterrupted yesterday and vacationers came and went freely.

Gaza Man Slit Wrists

TA1808090788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Aug 88 p 5

[Report by Shim'on Elqabetz, Oren Kohen, Amnon Levi and Fa'iz 'Abbas]

[Excerpts] An IDF investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Asad Jabri Ju'a, a 25-year-old resident of Gaza, indicates the man was not shot by soldiers in Ansar, but rather died after slashing his wrists. The man lost a lot of blood, but the medics in the area were unable to enter the detention camp to treat him.

The other man who died during the riots in the Qezi'ot detention camp was Bassam Ibrahim 'Amudi, 27, from the village of Al-Yamun. [passage omitted]

There were riots in the detention camp yesterday, too. In the afternoon, dozens of detainees from Block 1 started climbing over the fences in an attempt to escape. The IDF fired in the air, but to no avail. Reinforcements arrived at the detention camp. The IDF eventually managed to disperse the group and prevent the attempted escape. [passage omitted]

Gaza Curfew 'Eased'

TA1808043488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The curfew has been eased in the Gaza district. Security forces lifted the curfew in Gaza City, Khan Yunus, Rafah, and Dayr al-Balah. The curfew will continue in some of the refugee camps. [passage omitted]

Citizen Stoned in Qalqilyah

TA1808093188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] An Israeli citizen has been wounded by stones in Qalqilyah. An ambush was laid near Clock Square and Israeli cars were attacked with bricks and large stones thrown from rooftops. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that an Israeli escort vehicle guarding gas tankers was damaged and one of the passengers was wounded in the hand. The guards got out of the vehicles and fired into the air to alert the security forces. An IDF patrol arrived at the scene and searched the area.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF patrol in the Balatah refugee camp this morning. There were no injuries and no damage was caused. After the incident a riot broke out. The security forces dispersed the rioters and imposed a curfew on the Balatah refugee camp.

Our correspondent reports that the curfew remains in effect in Qabatiyah and the Qalandiyah refugee camp.

Update on West Bank, Gaza

TA1808104288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat reports that shops in the West Bank were opened this morning and that workers left for their jobs. At present, merchants are closing their shops.

In the Gaza Strip there is calm and so far the shops are open. Our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi adds that the curfew remains in effect in several refugee camps, with short breaks provided to enable the inhabitants to buy food.

Palestinians Report 334 Dead Since Unrest Began

TA1708185388 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 17 Aug 88 p 5

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 15 August, the 252d day of the uprising, the IDF spokesman issued no information concerning the number of Palestinian casualties.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities since the beginning of the intifada [uprising] is 257. This figure includes the two Gaza Strip workers who were burned alive.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 334 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

—221 fatalities from shots fired by IDF soldiers.

—27 fatalities from beatings and electrocutions.

—59 fatalities from gas asphyxiation.

—27 fatalities from other causes.

Academic Favors Declaration of Statehood

TA1708144988 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 14 Aug 88 pp 16, 13

[Interview with Bi'r Zayt University professor Dr Sari Nusaybah by Mahir Abu Khatir—place, date not given]

[Text] Q: The recent media exposure and interest in a document found at Faysal al-Husayni's office made its subject—the declaration of an independent Palestinian state—the topic of serious discussion among Palestinians. How realistic do you think is the idea of declaring an independent state in the occupied territories at this moment?

A: In my view, and speaking purely as an analyst, the idea of declaring independence is becoming more necessary by the day. Our state will not arrive by registered mail to the main post office on Salah al-Din Street. It has to be created in stages.

If you look at the last 21 years, but in particular at the last eight months of the uprising, you will observe a clear evolution of the various components of the state—universities, popular committees, unions, etc. The uprising's philosophy, in particular, has been to disengage from the Israeli system, economically and administratively, and to effect a simultaneous takeover of the control of our daily activities.

Jordan's declaration of disengagement from the other end has come to complement this strategy. Now we are at a crossroads. Either we take on our responsibility or we allow ourselves to be stunned into inaction through hair-splitting scholasticism and Byzantine disagreements.

Our best choice is to declare, at the peak of our civil disobedience campaign, that we are masters of ourselves. Once we do, we get into second gear, and we continue with more power along the road to freedom.

Q: Some critics of the document say its text and organization show political immaturity since a subject of this importance needs deep and thorough study before it is presented for discussion. What do you say to that?

A: I am not sure how mature a criticism this is. Discussion is the art of bringing ideas to maturity. I presume the text in question contained elements that could have (and which still could be) changed or substituted. The process to bring an important text to full fruition is arduous, especially in politics. Since it was prematurely seized and published by the security services, the text was obviously in an unfinished state when it was presented to the public.

Our job, and especially that of the critics—if they are sincere in their intentions—is to repair the damage done by the leak and to proceed with the debate in a constructive manner. In my view, any other manner of discussing the text would be totally irresponsible and politically damaging, besides being a reflection of political immaturity, or political ossification.

Q: Do you think the idea of declaring independence was born out of recent developments, or has this idea been circulating for some time?

A: As far as I know, the idea of a declaration of independence in these areas was first floated in recent times in 1980. The idea was again presented for discussion at the beginning of the uprising. Some intellectuals even wanted to incorporate the January 14th statement of 14 points in such a declaration.

When the various scenarios of the uprising's strategy were discussed among the inhabitants, one scenario that was particularly predominant in the discussions was that of a gradual escalation in civilian rebellion leading finally to the point of a declaration of independence.

This discussion was later enhanced by visiting scholar Jerome Segal who published his ideas in the local press. The publication made it possible to hand around and discuss a legitimate text. Various short commentaries were also handed around and discussed. When it finally seemed that we were coming closer to the point of total rebellion (disobedience), an indigenous text became necessary. I assume that this is how the text in question evolved.

Q: Apparently the enthusiasm for declaring the state is coming mainly from inside the occupied territories rather than outside them, and, by looking at the language of the document, Palestinians inside the occupied territories are for the first time taking the initiative to push for what they think should be done. Would you say the occupied territories are telling the leadership outside that they are taking more control over their future than before and that the leadership should this time take what they call for very seriously and give it full attention?

A: Personally, I have always distrusted the thesis that people in the occupied territories have in general played the role of obedient soldiers to the PLO's leadership. In my view, decisions concerning issues in the occupied territories have in general been taken by people here, with the leadership endorsing the recommendations. Otherwise, there was a good deal of democratic interchange, in spite of the difficulties involved in the lines of communication.

But having said this, I must add that concerning this particular issue at hand, I personally believe that it is not enough to come out after the next PNC meeting with a government-in-exile which is fashioned in the traditional form, to serve no more than a negotiating team. [sentence as published] We do not want a government floating in a spaceship with no specific functions in the occupied territories, and which is unconnected with the uprising's evolving infrastructure.

We want a cabinet whose members are each connected institutionally to a sector of activity in the occupied territories. We want a cabinet that will structurally and institutionally top the pyramidic organization which already is rooted in Palestinian soil.

In other words, we want to connect ourselves institutionally with our leadership: hence the need to combine the two ideas of independence and a government-in-exile together. Only like this can we concretize an otherwise symbolic relationship between the people and its leadership.

Sinyurah Cited on State of Territories

TA1208192188 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR (Hotam supplement) in Hebrew 12 Aug 88 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Hanna Sinyurah, editor of the East Jerusalem daily AL-FAJR, by Ehud Dor in the newspaper's office; date not given]

[Text] [Dor] Can the PLO effectively take Jordan's place in the territories?

[Sinyurah] The members of the PNC, who convened in Baghdad in late July, decided that the PLO would fulfil all the economic and political functions that might be left vacant as a result of some future moves by King Husayn. Although they expressed readiness to assume those roles, such a move would have to be coordinated with the inhabitants of the territories.

One of the obstacles to that is the Israeli policy blocking the entrance of funds the PLO intends to funnel into the territories to support the local economy and various development projects. This being the case, the brunt of the blow will be left to the local population to bear. They will have to take over the management of institutions that had been run by Jordan and which have not seen democratic elections since 1967. This state of affairs has bred a whole generation of veteran administrators incapable of carrying out such a task. Now we are expecting new elections to satisfy the wishes of the residents.

The problem is that since the beginning of the intifada [uprising], Israel has been exercising a tough policy vis-a-vis the residents of the territories, particularly through economic measures. The more Israel limits the introduction of money from the Arab countries and the PLO into the territories, the harder it will be to run affairs in the territories. Furthermore, withholding financial resources adds fuel to the fire of revolt and nurtures the intifada.

It prevents the inhabitants from being satisfied with the little they have—as their economic predicament, resulting from the PLO assuming Jordan's former position, dictates. If Israel takes the right actions, relations between the territories and Israel can improve. Thus, the PLO's status among the locals will grow. This, in turn, will better its modes of operation, ultimately leading to better ties with Israel. The conclusion, therefore, is: Israel must put an end to the conquest and recognize an independent Palestinian state for it to be able to start taking its first steps.

[Dor] What effect will Husayn's address have on the inhabitants of the territories?

[Sinyurah] When Jordan first launched its latest moves, involving legal and administrative disengagement from the occupied West Bank, certain Palestinians began talking about the terrible disaster befalling us as a result. These people, regardless of whether they meant ill or well, are inducing the humiliation and subordination of our people on their conquered land and encouraging the initiation of plans that run counter to our well-deserved national rights. The pressure Jordan is applying on us will not achieve its goal; on the contrary. This pressure will serve as a legitimate tool in our hands to counter all the renewed attempts to apply a tactical policy against us.

Consequently, in light of the moves the Jordanian Government has begun, we will have to reject all the elements that are still subordinate to the pre-1967 Jordanian law. The trade unions and chambers of commerce in West Bank towns which are still subject to the Jordanian law, even though they are subjects under the Israeli conquest, exemplify such elements. In the current state of affairs, there is no point for them (and not only them but also additional institutions) to remain idle and yet be governed by the Jordanian legal system.

[Dor] How will these steps influence the intifada?

[Sinyurah] From the economic point of view, the situation of the inhabitants is awful; it really could not be worse. As a result, one can hope for an improvement, with no fear that the intifada will exacerbate the situation further. Naturally, they will not sit back with folded arms, but will try to revitalize the institutions Husayn has abandoned. At the moment, however, they are expecting a more lenient Israeli attitude, which they desperately need.

[Dor] Will the PNC, which is scheduled to convene in approximately 1 month, pass resolutions recognizing Israel or UN Security Council Resolution 242, or will it adopt any other resolution indicating some move toward Israel?

[Sinyurah] The issues that will be debated by the PNC will be: a. the Abu Sharif document; b. the proposal to establish a government-in-exile; and c. the unilateral declaration of independence of Palestinians. As regards moves toward Israel, the Palestinian leadership has already adopted and recognized all the UN resolutions related to the Palestinian problem and Israel. I myself was present during contacts between Palestinians and Jordan, back in 1986, when a suggestion was made to the United States that the Palestinians accept all the UN resolutions.

[Dor] Why can there be no unequivocal recognition of UN Resolution 242 or the State of Israel?

[Sinyurah] The Palestinian recognition of Israel is inherent in their acceptance of the UN resolutions. Now they expect Israel to recognize the Palestinian state. If Israel consents to the existence of two independent states—Palestine and Israel—a Palestinian recognition of Israel will be guaranteed. The subject of borders will be open to negotiations. A peace plan published by Walid al-Khalidi accepts the 1967 borders as the border between the two states.

[Dor] What is your opinion of the theoretical plan regarding the declaration of Palestinian independence, which was found in Faysal al-Husayni's desk and which has already been entitled "The Al-Husayni Document?"

[Sinyurah] First of all, this draft must be viewed in the proper perspective. Husayn's recent moves and Faysal's detention are responsible for the reverberations this document has created. This paper can be of interest only after it is examined by the PLO's elected institutions, that is, the PNC. If it is approved by the latter, it will be a viable document.

[Dor] In your opinion, is it a positive document?

[Sinyurah] In my opinion, it is most certainly a positive document, as it is based on the only concept capable of enabling the main option of resolving the present situation to be consummated in the vacuum created by Husayn's disengagement from the territories. It must be understood, however, that we have to do some careful sounding out to examine the reactions to this document among the countries in this region and in Europe, without whose support it will be useless. The state's boundaries will have to be determined only after direct negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

[Dor] This document affirms that the Palestinian state will demand portions of land within the Green Line, that is, parts of the Galilee and so on. What will be the attitude of Israeli Arabs to such a possibility? Will they be willing to be annexed to a Palestinian state if one is established?

[Sinyurah] You have to ask that of the Israeli Arabs, who have their own parties and representative institutions. You must ask them.

[Dor] What are the chances of an independent Palestinian state wedged between Israel, which does not recognize it, on the one hand, and Jordan which severed its ties with it, on the other?

[Sinyurah] First of all, the Palestinians have a right to self-determination. Therefore, the conflict will not be solved without a Palestinian state. Second, this state should be regarded as one whose borders are open to both its neighbors, Israel and Jordan. It must have economic relations with both. The three states should maintain free movement of residents among them, as well as a connection between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. I believe the situation here is similar to the one that prevailed in Europe after World War II, when each European country maintained its nationhood while tightening its relations with its neighbors.

The immediate positive aspect of King Husayn's speech is, in my opinion, the king's lack of aspirations with regard to the Palestinian people. As for the future, however, I see a need to establish a common market for the countries in the area. What I mean is an open market between the three countries of this region, similar to the pre-ECC market established by the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

The nature of ties in the region should approximate that relationship, for it would enhance the chances and the possibilities of each party much more than the peace between Israel and Egypt. It would also remove the fears and suspicions between the residents of our region.

[Dor] Will the establishment of a Palestinian state not shift the animosity between the PLO factions from Lebanon into that state?

[Sinyurah] Wherever violence is the solution to problems, lack of land is at the root. If the Palestinians have land of their own, they will watch over it with an eagle eye. They also know how to keep agreements. In 1981, there were negotiations between the PLO and the Israeli Government, between 'Arafat and Begin through Philip Habib, for a cease-fire on the Lebanese border. The Palestinians kept their side of the bargain. In the Lebanon war planned by Sharon, the Israelis opened war despite the fact that the northern border was secure—all this after the PLO leader managed to force a cease-fire on his organization, some members of which had opposed it. He had forcibly disarmed them.

[Dor] To touch a personal note, how do you feel as a Christian in a vastly Muslim intifada?

[Sinyurah] Religion does not play a major role among the Palestinians. The intifada has exacted victims from all the fighting parties. The most important principle is: Leave religion to God, land to man.

[Dor] In view of the present circumstances, will you once again consider presenting your candidacy for the municipality of Jerusalem?

[Sinyurah] The present conditions of the intifada do not enable a repetition of this proposition. The future will prove that my proposal will be implemented in any peace agreement between Israel and a Palestinian state, however, because Jerusalem must be the capital of both states. The city's welfare will require that it remain open and that the two nations cooperate on the issue.

PLO Official Cited on Political Developments

TA1208155288 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Aug 88 p 3

["Exclusive" report from Cairo by Dan Avidan]

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif's peace plan was only a trial balloon aimed at exposing the unwillingness of Israel and the United States to hold any kind of peace negotiations with the PLO. This was said yesterday by Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's political adviser, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, and chairman of the PNC's political department.

Sha'th was one of the candidates to meet with Richard Murphy, who has meanwhile left Cairo. The other candidates for this meeting were Akram Haniyah, former editor of the East Jerusalem AL-SHA'B newspaper, who had been deported from Israel and has meanwhile joined the Fatah establishment abroad; U.S. Palestinian professors Ibrahim Abu Lughod and Edward Said, as well as Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah from the territories.

The meeting did not materialize because Murphy refused to meet with Akram Haniyah and Nabil Sha'th since both are acknowledged PLO members.

In a newspaper interview Sha'th attacked the administrative aspect of King Husayn's disengagement from the West Bank, claiming that stopping the payment of salaries to thousands of officials and ending aid to the inhabitants will severely harm the uprising.

On the other hand, Sha'th welcomed the political aspect of the king's move because it means that in future peace negotiations two separate delegations will participate, the PLO's and Jordan's, rather than a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. At the same time, Sha'th said, it is absolutely impossible to completely separate the two banks. The PLO will strive to renew coordination with Jordan, at least in the economic, administrative, and financial spheres.

Sha'th also stated that the end of the Iran-Iraq war will help the struggle of Palestinians against Israel, because henceforth Iraq's military power will pose a direct threat to Israel. "Iraq has surface-to-surface missiles which can hit the Dimona nuclear reactor," he said.

Sha'th noted that the issue of establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile and of declaring independence for the inhabitants of the territories is currently being discussed by the authoritative PLO bodies, adding that a decision will be taken during the PNC's convention in Baghdad, to be held within a month.

Sha'th claimed that Husayn's move to disengage from the territories creates better conditions for establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile. He noted that there are still various PLO elements who have reservations regarding the establishment of such a government for several reasons: their fear that not all the countries who recognize the PLO (more than 100) will also recognize such a government, a thing which would harm the PLO's international standing; the fear that some of the Arab countries may be opposed to such an initiative (Syria has already warned it is against the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile), a thing which may put an end to the financial and political support given to the Palestinians.

Sha'th said that if a Palestinian government-in-exile is established it will strive to continue the uprising and will not make any political gestures toward Israel and the United States until they recognize this government or the PLO, which may continue to exist as a fighting body alongside the government.

New Fortifications Reducing 'Terrorist' Attacks

TA1808101788 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Aug 88 p 3

[Report by correspondent in the north Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] In the past year, troops of the Northern Command's Engineering Corps built new and more defendable fortifications in the security zone, and added posts in the eastern sector and along the border with Syria.

Colonel T., the Northern Command's chief engineering officer, said yesterday that the new fortification lines in the security zone in southern Lebanon have already proven themselves, as can be seen from the significant decline in the number of attempted assaults by Palestinian terrorists and Hizballah men in the area.

He added that the decision to carry out a thorough campaign of fortifying posts was prompted by the high incidence of attacks by Palestinian terrorists and Shi'ites last summer, when the attackers even succeeded several times in taking South Lebanese Army posts.

The Northern Command chief engineering officer stressed that the latest fortifications have reduced terrorist attacks to the minimum. He said that a day after the Engineering Corps completed the construction of one of the posts, it was shelled by terrorists. The only effect of the shelling, however, were scratches on the post's exterior.

AL-SHA'B: Chance for Peace in Region

TA1708183788 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Aug 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "Peace—One More Chance"]

[Text] The Palestinian diplomatic offensive—led by the Palestinian leadership to affirm our people's wish and desire to live in peace and dignity on the soil of their homeland—has aroused the concern and apprehension of the Israeli authorities. All of the justifications and pretexts for occupying Arab lands given by these authorities have been rendered null and void.

With the approach of the legislative elections in Israel, the two major parties—Labor and Likud—are competing in their extremism and rejection of peace plans and chances available in the region. This is so because the leaders of the big parties in Israel lack a strategy and readiness for peace with the Palestinian people.

On the contrary, they possess plans and a strategy to develop Israeli military power, to reinforce the occupation in the occupied territories, and to establish further settlements there. Therefore, Labor and Likud leaders have no alternative but to evade reality by tainting the PLO with terrorism, and consequently reiterate their refusal to negotiate with the PLO.

These measures do not contribute to bringing the region closer to the desired peace. They are, rather, counterproductive because they harm the basic rights of residents to live with dignity in their own homeland.

All the facts indicate that there exists a real chance for achieving peace and stability in the Middle East region. This is possible if Israel should choose the road to peace and its leaders decide to recognize the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state.

If it acts otherwise, Israel will lose another opportunity to achieve peace. Consequently, the cycle of wars, killings, and displacement will continue in the region.

U.S. Urged To Overcome 'Kissingerian' Obstacles

TA1208161988 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Aug 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Murphy Shuts His Eyes to the Facts"]

[Text] Once again the U.S. Administration has replayed its broken record reciting the hostile U.S. stance toward our Palestinian people, represented by their sole legitimate representative the PLO. This time the hostile stance was expressed through the refusal of its new-old envoy, Richard Murphy, to meet with Palestinian figures from inside and outside the occupied territories.

The repetition of the above-mentioned U.S. stance—the insistence of U.S. envoys on not recognizing our people's unity inside and outside the occupied territories—and the non-recognition of the PLO and its fundamental and central role in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, will prolong the life of this conflict. It will not bring the region nearer to the desired peace.

The events taking place in the occupied territories which prompted the acceleration of developments in the region—the latest of which was Jordan's administrative and legal disengagement from the West Bank—affirm one reality, namely that there is no option but the Palestinian option. One must deal with the difficult Palestinian factor which the U.S. Administration persists in ignoring in the equation of the Middle East conflict. This stance will, in the final analysis, lead to the failure of all U.S. plans, programs, visits, and proposals for resolving the Middle East problem.

The U.S. Administration is called upon to overcome the 'Kissingerian' obstacles set up by Henry Kissinger in the 1970's in which he pledged to not conduct negotiations with or recognize the PLO. Continued U.S. adherence to past positions and options that exclude the Palestinian option is tantamount to blindness to the facts. Our people have foiled all plans and schemes that sought to liquidate their legitimate national rights. They have paid for this with the blood of their best sons.

Our people thus insist on achieving a just and honorable peace. They reject U.S. attempts to divide them and confiscate their will and freedom to choose their representatives. Irrespective of how much U.S. envoys try to shut their eyes, the light of truth is stronger. Light is there to illuminate darkness so that it will disappear and the light of truth will dawn.

Briefs

Balance of Payments

A steep decline was recorded in the balance of payments deficit for the first quarter of 1988. Bureau of Statistics data indicates that the deficit totaled only $44 million, compared to $277 million during the same period last year. Foreign debts increased by $183 million during the first 3 months of the year. Also, imports of goods and services during this period totaled $5.1 billion, 12 percent more than during the first quarter of 1987. In contrast, exports of goods during the first quarter of 1988 increased by 24 percent. [Excerpts] [*TA0908120688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Aug 88*]

Continuing Shekel Devaluation

The shekel's rate of exchange against the dollar yesterday climbed above the NIS [New Israeli Shekel] 1.65 mark, for the first time since the January 1987 devaluation. At midday, the Bank of Israel set the rate of exchange at NIS 1.6505. Since the beginning of the year the shekel has been devalued by over 7 per cent. At the end of 1987 the dollar stood at NIS 1.54. [Excerpt] [*TA1108133188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Aug 88 p 1*]

Exports to Japan

Israeli exports to Japan are rising. In the first half of 1988 Israel sold Japan $345.2 million worth of goods, compared to $214 million in the same period last year. Excluding diamonds, Israeli exports to Japan have reached $268.9 million since January, which is a 67 percent increase compared to the first 6 months of 1987. Israel exports to Japan more than it imports from that country. The figures for 1987 are: exports—$476.034 million; imports—only $400.971 million. According to data provided by the Industry and Trade Ministry, diamonds accounted for 77 percent of the exported goods. Next are chemical products—7.7 percent. These are followed by metal products ($22.2 million or 4.67 percent) and electric and electronic products showing similar figures. Israeli exports to Japan are expected to grow by some 70 percent this year. [Summary] [*TA0908123088 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew (MAMON supplement) 9 Aug 88 p 2*]

Unemployment

There was a considerable rise in the number of unemployed and job seekers in July, more than 60 percent compared to July 1987. More than 50,000 job seekers, the highest number in 2 years, were registered in employment bureaus last month. The number of job seekers rose by about 32 percent compared to July 1987. The number of those unemployed for 6 days or more increased by 10 percent compared to June 1988, and by 63 percent compared to July 1987. In contrast, a decline of 9 percent has been recorded in the number of requests for workers this month. [Text] [*TA0908120588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Aug 88*]

West Bank Electric Substation

The Israel Electric Corp. has begun work on its first substation in Samaria. The substation, many years in the planning, is vital because of the fast rise in electricity consumption in the area following the linkage of Nabulus, Janin, Qaqilyah and Tulkarm to the national electric grid. It is being built off the trans-Samaria highway, north of Ari'el. [Text] [*TA0908122588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Aug 88 p 12*]

Gold Lodes in 'Arava

Researchers of the Energy Ministry's Geological Survey Department recently discovered gold lodes in the southern part of the 'Arava whose commercial value has not yet been ascertained. The gold was found in samples of river silt over several square kilometers during a geochemical survey of Israel. Our correspondent Arye Salman reports that the Geological Survey Department will expand its explorations in the area. [Text] [*TA0908144188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Aug 88*]

Satellite Development With France

Israel Aviation Industries [IAI] and the French company Ariane signed an agreement today for the development and manufacture of the first Israeli space satellite. The missile, to be called Amos, will be used for the transmission of television broadcasts to Israel, telephone communications with remote locations, and as a backup for current communications channels. Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that IAI will develop the satellite in cooperation with Gad General Electronics, directed by Me'ir 'Amit; the Bezek telephone company; and a West German firm. [Text] [*TA0908145288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Aug 88*]

IDF Appointments

Two new appointments in the army take effect tomorrow. Brigadier General David Agmon will be appointed the head of infantry and paratroops, replacing Brigadier Shmu'el Arad, who has been chosen to another senior position. Brigadier General Yoram Ya'ir will become a major general and will serve in a senior position in the ground forces. [Text] [*TA1108175288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Aug 88*]

Heroin Seized

Dozens of policemen assisted by search dogs and border policemen broke up a large drug distribution center in Nazareth this morning. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that after several months of intelligence activity, the police broke into the homes of several members of the Hamid family in Nazareth. The houses were protected by heavy metal doors and watchdogs. The policemen seized dozens of units of heroin and goods suspected of being stolen. The police have obtained the testimony of several dozen people who have admitted buying drugs from the family members. [Text] [*TA1308044488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Aug 88*]

More Heroin Seized

On 11 August, Yafo policemen were summoned to Wolfson Hospital to interrogate two men who were wounded in a fight. A policemen noticed that one of the wounded men was not moving his lips and was keeping his mouth tightly shut. The man, a known drug dealer from Yafo, was asked to open his mouth on suspicion that he was hiding drugs there. The man refused and instead swallowed whatever was in his mouth. He was later taken to the lavatory where he excreted three bags containing heroin. The suspect's brother was also arrested later while attempting to transfer narcotics to him in a French kiss. [Excerpts] [*TA1308044588 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Aug 88 p A6*]

King Sends Condolences Over Ziaul Haq Death

JN1708194188 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn sent the following telegram of condolences to the Speaker of the Pakistani Senate Ghulam Ishaq Khan:

It was with deep regret and sorrow that I learned of the tragic death of His Excellency the late Mr Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

On behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan , I offer heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Pakistan.

The people of Jordan share in my grief at this tragic loss. The world has lost a truly brave statesman.

I myself and Jordan have lost a true and dear friend. I would cherish the memories of friendship and brotherhood I have shared with the late president.

His dedication to the welfare of his country and his contribution to peace in the Islamic world will be remembered with great regard.

I would appreciate the conveyance of my sympathy and condolences to the family of the late president, praying to God Almighty to bestow peace upon his soul.

The Royal Hashemite Court declared a 3-day mourning over the death of President Ziaul Haq.

Release of Political Detainees 'Soon as Possible'

JN1708202188 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 16 Aug 88 p 14

[Excerpt] Cairo, Amman, News Agencies, AL-BAYAN—Informed sources in Amman told AL-BAYAN yesterday that Jordan's King Husayn has positively responded to the Palestinian delegation's request during the meetings that were held between them in Amman to release political detainees as soon as possible.

Sources close to the Palestinian delegation that arrived in Cairo yesterday at the end of a 5-day visit to Jordan have said the Palestinian and Jordanian sides have approximated their viewpoints on all issues, with the exception of the question of the formation of a Palestinian provisional government.

On this issue, Jordan asked for some time before declaring its stand.

Several members of leftwing Palestinian factions resumed their work as employees in some PLO institutions in Amman.

Over 1 and ½ years ago, Jordan asked that their work in the PLO departments be suspended. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR Hails Iraqi 'Gift' to Army

JN1708113388 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Aug 88 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "From One Honest and Courageous Hand to Another]

[Text] The dear gift that was granted by fraternal Iraq to the Jordanian Arab Army stationed on the longest confrontation line with the Zionist enemy, is another landmark on the road of true brotherhood and true pan-Arab relations that were fully tested during the glorious defensive war waged by Iraq on behalf of its Arab nation.

This is precisely the meaning of the joint cooperation minutes that were signed in Baghdad at the end of His Majesty King Husayn's talks with his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

The minutes frankly stipulate that the gift indicates the appreciation of Iraq—leadership, Army, and people—for His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people for their noble, honorable, and heroic pan-Arab stand during Iraq's brave and prolonged war against the unjust Iranian aggression.

Jordan is proud of Iraq's great victories for the Arab nation, which, for years, has been yearning for victory. But now, it is even more proud of the brave Iraqi brothers' achievements after receiving a list of the military equipment which was seized by the Iraqi Army in a series of glorious and victorious battles against the Iranian aggressors.

Hence comes King Husayn's promise to his Iraqi brothers that the brave men in the brave Jordanian Arab Army will use the gift of weapons in the glorious defense of the Arab nation and the homeland, to which we devote our life and for which we make every sacrifice.

Therefore, as he signed the joint cooperation minutes, Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, stressed that President Saddam Husayn's gift is evidence of the brotherly and pan-Arab cohesion between the two fraternal countries.

The gift moves from one honest and courageous Arab hand to another, and King Husayn's forces will use these weapons to defend the noble principles inherited by his majesty from his grandfathers.

As we appreciate this gift and glorify the deep meaning of this step, our hearts are proud of Jordan's firm position toward fraternal Iraq—a position highly appreciated by the brave Iraqis, who view it as clear evidence of the honor, maturity, and truthfulness of this genuine Arab country.

Reportage on Possible Release of Hostages

To Begin in September

PM1708142588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 88 p 1

[Khalil Matar report: "Gradual Release of Western Hostages To Begin Next Month"]

[Text] Beirut—Well-informed Lebanese sources in the Lebanese capital have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the final touches to arrangements for the release of the Western hostages held in Lebanon have now been completed and that the process of the release of these hostages will be a gradual one beginning early September, to be completed by the end of the current year, and that by the new year there will be no Western hostages left in Lebanon.

The sources said that the recent improvement in U.S.-Iranian relations has prompted Iran to agree to end the problem of the hostages as a fundamental step toward rapprochement with Washington and the West and out of international isolation.

The same source disclosed a U.S.-Iranian agreement spelling out details regarding the release of U.S. hostages, denoting that what is delaying implementation now is the heat generated by the U.S. presidential elections.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the process of gradually releasing the hostages will begin with the release of Hans [as published] Kordes of West Germany in return for the release of Muhammad 'Ali Hammadi, who is currently standing trial in Germany charged with carrying out terrorist operations.

The Lebanese sources said that the release of the rest of the hostages depends on the payment of large sums as ransom, and that the political justification for holding them was no longer valid. The sources have mentioned the sum of $5 million for the release of each hostage. That would give the kidnappers about $100 million as a price for the hostages they are holding.

The sources emphasize that the material price for the hostages, which will only be paid to the kidnappers, has dominated all other considerations since the beginning of Iran's retreat on the war front with Iraq and the Gulf and since the entry of the Syrian Army into the southern suburb of Beirut in the context of the general security plan for Beirut after the bloody clashes some weeks ago between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

The sources stress that the Syrian Army's gradual entry into Beirut's southern suburb, which began with 300 soldiers and gradually increased to 4,000, has directly and firmly affected the Hizballah activities.

The common saying now is that "between each Syrian roadblock and the next one there is yet another Syrian roadblock."

Only the Bi'r al-'Abd barracks is still under Hizballah's control, and that is where most of the hostages are widely believed to be.

In conclusion, the sources maintain that "the result of the suburb battles was complete defeat for all the militia options, the Amal Movement, and Hizballah, and complete victory for the security plan implemented by Syria in Beirut.

This will facilitate the release of the hostages and bring this tragic chapter to an end, and because of the current direct openness, Iran is no longer in need of an arm to connect it to the West."

Caller Says Waite Alive

NC1808050388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] In a telephone conversation with a foreign news agency in Beirut last night, an anonymous caller identifying himself as a member of Islamic Jihad declared that British hostage Terry Waite is still alive. After reading a verse from the Koran, the caller said: I can release Waite shortly if the Thatcher government shows good will.

The caller said that the decision to release Waite will not be made out of courtesy to him, but in deference to the anniversary of Ashura.

It is worth noting that the last day of Ashura this year will be on 26 August.

Islamic Jihad Demands Remain

NC1808102388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] The Islamic Jihad organization, which is holding two U.S. hostages in Lebanon, today announced that it will not release any hostages unless its demands are met. This declaration came in a statement delivered to a foreign news agency in Beirut today and to which a photo of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson was attached.

It is worth noting that the Islamic Jihad members demand the release of their colleagues detained in Arab and Israeli prisons, as well as the release of all Palestinians and Lebanese held in Israeli prisons. They also demand the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops and their allies in the South Lebanese Army from the border area.

Further Reportage on Presidential Election

Security Measures Noted

NC1708112288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The contacts and consultations on the presidential election were completed today, and the implementation of the security arrangements to safeguard the Chamber of Deputies presidential election session, which is scheduled to be held tomorrow, will begin at 1800 this evening.

To safeguard the session and prevent any disorder or disturbances, security measures were adopted as of today. Elevn groups of security forces have been detailed for this purpose. These groups will deploy at the intersections and on the road leading to the area surrounding the Mansur Palace [seat of the Chamber of Deputies].

This area will be turned into an isolated security zone in which individuals and cars will not be allowed to pass. Fixed and mobile checkpoints will be set up and patrols will be operated in the streets leading to and inside the isolated zone.

Lack of Quorum Predicted

NC1708193188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has stressed that there will be no quorum at tomorrow's Chamber of Deputies session to elect a new president of the Republic.

Saying that there will be no surprises, Dr Ja'ja' said that the easiest and simplest way to prevent former President Sulayman Franjiyah from becoming president is to boycott the session tomorrow in a democratic way. He added that this does not mean foiling the session, but utilizing the democratic ploy of not attaining a quorum. Otherwise, what would be the meaning of setting a quorum for the session if the deputies did not have the right to express their opposition by boycotting the session.

Dr Ja'ja' said that the free Lebanese will put forward a single consensus candidate within the next few days.

3 Deputies Detained

NC1808084388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] We have been informed by the office of the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies that three deputies who reside in East Beirut were detained while on their way to the Chamber of Deputies today.

They are Ra'uf Samarah, Mikhayil al-Dahir, and Ilyas al-Harrawi. Interior Minister al-Rasi has informed Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss that the three deputies were detained by gunmen in East Beirut while on their way to Al-Mansur Palace.

Telephone lines in both parts of the capital, including military lines, have been deliberately cut. Radio contacts are being used instead. It has been reported that the reason for the cut is a temporary technical fault at the Badaru Central Telephone Exchange. It has also been learned that the electric current to this central exchange has been cut off.

Prime Minister al-Huss has been following the developments of the session being held to elect the president since this morning. He is in touch with Minister al-Rasi, who briefs him on the political and security developments.

Upon his arrival at Al-Mansur Palace, Deputy Zahir al-Khatib said that Deputy Mikhayil al-Dahir is now being detained at the Lebanese Forces War Council.

He added that Deputies Ilyas al-Harrawi and Ra'uf Samarah have not shown up. Deputy al-Khatib questioned the officials about the whereabouts of Deputies al-Dahir, Al-Harrawi, and Samarah and why they have not arrived at the Chamber of Deputies.

Asked how he had arrived at the Chamber, Al-Khatib answered: I arrived in my own way.

Election Session Postponed

NC1808103288 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1020 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Ihsan Abu Khalil, secretary general of the Chamber of Deputies Staff Office, said a little while ago that Speaker Husayn al-Husayni will invite the deputies to a second election session after being briefed by Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi on the actions to which the deputies were subjected.

Abu Khalil said that Speaker al-Husayni has decided to adjourn the session for lack of a quorum and he will later fix a new date for the session.

Speaker al-Husayni Comments

NC1808105788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1028 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Statement by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents after the parliamentary session to elect a new president adjourned because of the lack of a quorum—live]

[Text] As you know, the interior minister has informed me of practices which have been applied against some deputies, thus preventing the completion of a quorum to meet this constitutional deadline.

While denouncing any practice to which a deputy might be subjected in the line of exercising his duty, we will intensify the contacts with the deputies and we will work to carry out our duty at this serious turning point in the history of our homeland.

I repeat that we have no choice but to preserve our homeland. We will make the utmost effort. I am proud of the high morale of my colleagues, the deputies, who displayed every readiness for every sacrifice to safeguard the homeland's legality and the state's legality.

[Correspondent] Mr Speaker, has a date been set for another session?

[Al-Husayni] I will set a date at the earliest opportunity, after consulting with the parliamentary blocs in a quick and intensive manner.

[Correspondent] Mr Speaker, can we say that another session may be held before 23 August?

[Al-Husayni] We are striving to convene such a session as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] And if the atmosphere remains as it is, especially as some deputies have been prevented from reaching the parliament building?

[Al-Husayni] We will work to meet the constitutional deadline, regardless of the difficulties and obstacles.

Ja'ja' Comments

NC1808122288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' was asked about his opinion following the postponement of the parliamentary session. He said: The reason for the failure of the session is simple. The majority of the deputies believe that the candidacy of Franjiyah was not in place. They thus decided to boycott the session and prevent a quorum.

Dr Ja'ja' stressed that the leaders in East Beirut will agree on a candidate of conciliation, even if the other side has a candidate. He said that a candidate of conciliation may have his own program, character, and style. Ja'ja' added: We insist on presidential elections and on a president of conciliation who will save the country.

Dr Ja'ja' congratulated the deputies for their stand. However, he expressed surprise at the remarks made by Minister al-Rasi and Deputy Zahir al-Khatib, wondering on what facts they had based their remarks.

Car Explodes in West Beirut; Property Damage

NC1708113088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Those who are being harmed by the presidential election have worked at creating a tense atmosphere in several areas of Beirut since yesterday evening.

According to a security report, a gray booby-trapped Fiat 200 with license plate number 960709 exploded as it was sitting in the parking lot of the Al-'Ijjah building on the Al-Barbir crossing at 0500 today. A military expert estimated the explosive device at 15 kg of TNT. The explosion caused only property damage.

Israel, SLA Make 'Suspicious Moves' in South

NC1708163988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] On the eve of the constitutional deadline, the occupied areas [of southern Lebanon], and particularly the eastern sectors up to Jazzin, were the scene of suspicious moves by Israel and its agents over the past 24 hours. According to information received from there, the Israeli command and the agent Lahd militia's command have decided to declare a state of maximum alert among their ranks in the eastern sector following a tour of positions there by General Yosi Peled, the enemy army's commander of the northern sector.

This tour took place amid reports that the Israeli enemy has brought large reinforcements to the Kafr Hunah combat line and that senior army officers have inspected the advanced positions on the Kafr Hunah-Jazzin-Al-'Ayshiyah combat line.

The reports said that the team arrived aboard two helicopters which landed in the Lahd militia's position in Tallat 'Ayn Qinya. From there, the team was driven in military vehicles to the positions in Shwayya, Zaghlah, (Mirya), and [words indistinct] Kawkaba. The agents' command and the Israeli command held a meeting in the area, during which it was decided to declare a state of maximum alert there.

The reports added that the Israeli team left from the Tallat 'Ayn Qinya position aboard a helicopter in the afternoon.

Security reports received from Marj 'Uyun said that the Israeli occupation forces have brought in around 20 armored vehicles to the Marj 'Uyun area over the past 12 hours. They have been deployed to their positions in the Ibil al-Saqy Valley and on the Kawkaba Hills opposite the western Al-Biqa'.

Israeli Warplanes Overfly Sidon, Camps

NC1708191588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports received from the South, Israeli warplanes have been flying over Sidon and its adjacent camps, dropping flares, since 2130 today.

Israel Deports 4 Palestinians to Marj 'Uyun

NC1708143688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Four Palestinians arrived in southern Lebanon today, having been deported from Israel. According to security sources in the South, the deportees were flown by helicopter to Marj 'Uyun in the security strip.

Khaddam Reviews Political Developments in Region
JN1708134988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Aug

[Text] The comrade secretaries of the Ba'th Party branches, the governors, the heads of popular organizations and unions, and the presidents of universities continued their meeting today under the chairmanship of Comrade Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The meeting was attended by Vice President Comrade 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the People's Assembly speaker, the prime minister, members of the Regional Command of the party, and a number of comrade ministers.

Vice President Comrade 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam presented a comprehensive political review on the Arab and international political developments in light of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the developments in the Arabian Gulf, Lebanon, and the world.

Khaddam reiterated our country's firm pan-Arab stand in confronting the hostile schemes aimed at imposing capitulation over the Arab nation.

The vice president praised our people's brave uprising in the occupied Arab territory where the solid national will responds to the feverish attempts embarked on by the 'Arafatist clique and the Palestinian rightwing to bypass the uprising, deprive it of its liberation struggle content, and peddle the capitulatory and liquidatory deals.

Comrade Khaddam affirmed that Arab Syria under struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the Republic, represents the course of national and pan-Aran struggle and will continue to confront all plots aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause.

The comrade vice president pointed out that our country has welcomed Iran's acceptance of the Security Council resolution, calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war. He said that our people have condemned this war since it first started because it serves imperialist and Zionist interests and achieves their goals.

The results of this war and the return to the 1980 border have proven that the tools of destruction and killing have triumphed as was hoped for by imperialism and Zionism.

Comrade Khaddam affirmed that our people in Iraq will topple the bloody, fascist, agent regime of Saddam through their struggle to regain Iraq's genuine Arab face and contribute to the Arab nation's battle.

The vice president spoke about the Jordanian Government's step to disengage the legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank. He said that this step came to implement the Arab summit resolutions and block the road to the schemes of a substitute homeland which Israel and America want to materialize to liquidate the Arab nation's central cause.

Khaddam also reviewed the great efforts and big sacrifices of our country in fraternal Lebanon to achieve national reconciliation and create a suitable atmosphere to elect a president in Lebanon to shoulder the responsibility of uniting Lebanese territory and people on the basis of liberating its struggling south from the Israeli occupation and regaining its pan-Arab role.

Concluding his statement, Comrade Khaddam called on the comrade conferees to shoulder their national and pan-Arab responsibilities, to continue the march of sacrifices under struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, to liberate all occupied Arab territories, and to build a progressive and socialist society.

The conferees then continued their discussions of the economic and administrative topics. Prime Minister Comrade Mahmud al-Zu'bi explained a number of issues.

He affirmed the importance of self-dependence, exploiting domestic potentials and substitutes, and rationing expenditure to achieve a balance between the different economic sectors and to make available our people's needs and services.

'Concessions' by 'Arafatist 'Clique' Viewed
JN1608124088 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus, 16 Aug (SANA)—In a comment today, the newspaper TISHRIN writes on the 'Arafatist clique's continued concessions to the Zionist enemy, which takes an intransigent position whenever a new concession is made by those who are trying to catch the Camp David train.

The newspaper refers to Salah Khalaf's recent announcement regarding the 'Arafatist clique's readiness to recognize the Zionist enemy's secure borders, stressing that this recognition practically means the relinquishment of the Palestinian Arab people's right in their usurped land and a treacherous stab to the pan-Arab struggle, in which the Palestine question is the core of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The newspaper also says the 'Arafatist clique's bow to the Zionist enemy will only make it wallow in the Camp David mud and will confuse the uprising against the Zionist enemy.

This represents the most serious plot against the Palestinian people's struggle and against the pan-Arab struggle to liberate the land and regain the usurped rights.

TISHRIN ends its comment by stressing that by continuing, escalating, and developing its struggle and adhering to the liberation program, the popular uprising is evidence that it does not only confront the Zionist enemy and its war-machine, but also all the escapist and capitulatory plans as well as the policy of concessions by the 'Arafatist clique as a result of selling out its policy and positions to the treacherous Camp David method.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Lebanese Elections

JN1808101088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Aug

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: Under the headline "Presidential Elections and Accord", the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Amid the legitimate atmosphere of optimism the fraternal Lebanese people are experiencing over the possibility of—or rather the need for—completing the presidential elections so that they will be a genuine and tangible historic opportunity to end the Lebanese problem, some parties are trying to explode the situation in a clear attempt to obstruct the elections in a natural democratic atmosphere.

Consequently, these parties seek to remove the historic opportunity to save both Lebanon and the Lebanese people and to terminate the grave problem which brought terrible agonies throughout the years of fighting.

It is clear that attempts to explode the situation to impede the presidential elections are being made by parties that are engaged and continue to engage in aggravating the atmosphere and exploiting the fighting.

Moreover, these parties will be harmed by the signs of a solution looming on the horizon concerning the national dialogue. This dialogue seeks to find a way out of the problem and attain national accord that will restore Lebanon's wellbeing, calm, and normal life as well as a secure, normal atmosphere in a unified Lebanon that has an Arab identity and affiliation.

Through the current explosion of the situation, these parties also seek to perpetuate the problem and retain the volatile situation in order to exhaust Lebanon and maintain an opportunity for Israel to implement its hostile schemes and ambitions in Lebanon.

Such attempts whose objectives are exposed and which cannot serve the interest of Lebanon or the Lebanese people require all the Lebanese people to show vigilance and caution toward these attempts which harm both Lebanon and the Lebanese people.

These attempts will also bring Lebanon back to chaos and fighting instead of a favorable situation by holding the presidential elections, continuing the steps of a national dialogue, and completing the requirements of accord.

Under these particular circumstances, all the Lebanese should realize the importance of awareness to responsibilities and duties as well as keeping the action and practices up to the level of challenge dictated by this historic opportunity.

This opportunity provides a major basis to create a comprehensive Lebanese national consensus on the need to continue attaining national accord in order to save Lebanon from its ordeal, especially since Arab Syria has exerted and continues to exert every possible effort to attain such accord and preserve the unity of Lebanese territory and people and also to liberate southern Lebanon from Zionist occupation.

Syria will not spare anything that will help save and restore normal life to Lebanon. This is a need realized by all honorable Lebanese who care for both the presidential elections and accord.

Afghanistan

New Defense Minister, Chief of Staff Named

LD1708162488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The Office of the Presidency reports that as proposed by Afghanistan's Council of Ministers and in line with Article 104 of the constitution, Esteemed Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay has been appointed Afghan minister of defense.

Also, as proposed by the Afghan Council of Ministers, Major General Mohammad Asef Delawar, the I Corps commander, has been appointed chief of the Armed Forces General Staff in line with Clause 6 of Article 75 of the Afghan constitution.

Kabul Reports Promotions to Major General

LD1708211488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] By a decree from the Afghan president, the following officers have been promoted from brigadier general to major general:

Zabihullah Ziarmal, son of Ghulam Faruq; Fateh Muhammad, son of Khan Zaman; Khalilullah, son of Muhammad Azam; Muhammad Faruq, son of Aminulhaq; Muhammad Da'ud, son of 'Abdul 'Aziz.

The following officers have been promoted from lieutenant colonel to brigadier general:

1. Muhammad Ayub, son of Muhammad Sharif;
2. Mir Muhammad Shafiq, son of Mir Muhammad Ya'qub;
3. Muhammad Taher, son of Din Muhammad;
4. Rasul Pasha, son of Sultan Shah;
5. Muhammad Isma'il, son of Muhammad Ashraf;
6. Mirajuddin, son of Kharotay;
7. Azizurrahman, son of 'Abdul Ghafar;
8. 'Abdul Manan, son of Din Muhammad;
9. Gol Ahmad, son of Sher Ahmad;
10. Ghulam Faruq, son of Masjidi;
11. Muhammad Akbar, son of Muhammad Sarwar;
12. 'Abdul Ahad, son of 'Abdul Karim.

Najibullah Delivers Independence, Army Day Speech

LD1708224888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Radio and television address by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, marking the 69th anniversary of Afghanistan's independence and Army Day; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear respected people of Afghanistan, sisters and brothers, officers, NCO's, men, and generals of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan:

We thank God that today I can congratulate the courageous Afghan nation on the occasion of 69th anniversary of the country's independence. [passage omitted]

Today the Afghan people are celebrating the anniversary of the country's independence. It is my duty to express appreciation to the people, party, and government of the Soviet Union for the objective assistance extended to our people since the beginning of Afghanistan's war of independence.

Afghan-Soviet friendship is an evergreen tree which passes from one generation to another. Afghan-Soviet friendship conforms with our national interests and Afghans are duty-bound to strengthen this friendship.

Dear compatriots, the enemy intends to display once again their ancestors' intention to subjugate Afghanistan. At this very moment a provisional government for Afghanistan is being formed in Pakistan, and some refugees are submitting plans for the annexation of Afghanistan by Pakistan.

Beneath these plans the military fantasy of Ziaul Haq and his imperialist strategy can be seen from a distance. When the Islam-loving claim of the extremists came to an end and the masks fell from their black faces, and when the tale of Soviet occupation was concluded, their hidden intentions were exposed: They wanted to divide Afghanistan or sell it to Pakistan.

However, as long as one son of Afghanistan is alive he will not allow anyone—by following the path of his ancestors' honor and pride—to put the evil eye on his homeland, because the blood of our ancestors runs in the veins of our sons, ancestors who taught a lesson to the enemies of the homeland. [passage omitted]

As a responsible person in a high government position, I tell all people of Afghanistan, friends and foes, that there is no longer anything hidden in the intentions of Ziaul Haq's regime.

Given the Geneva accords and the implementation of withdrawal, the only objective in prolonging the imposed war is to massacre the Afghan people. In this way, Pakistan's militarist objective is being promoted.

The Pakistani rulers want to broaden the game of gold and guns in order to complete their plan to destroy the Afghan people. By massacring the Afghan people, Ziaul Haq—supported by old, disguised enemies—wants to destroy the strong fortresses of freedom and the liberation movement and extinguish this light forever.

At this sensitive moment when aggression and interference by the Pakistani regime have reached the maximum, I ask our people to ask themselves if they are ready to take a patriotic role in defending Afghanistan's independence.

The time has now come for turning guns and artillery toward the enemies of freedom, peace, and prosperity, and for seeing that the warmongers burn in the flames of their deeds.

At this time, I address the independent tribes who, together with the Afghan people, achieved historic fraternity during the war of independence. The enemies of Afghanistan have sharpened their knives against you and against us; they want to entice the tribes with dollars and weapons and deprive them of their independence forever.

On this great day, once again I promise our people that our government and the PDPA will remain faithful to the principles of national reconciliation. [passage omitted]

Our enemies are trying to show that we have allegedly devised the national reconciliation policy as a means to save ourselves. This allegation is unjust. We have confidence in the strength of our Armed Forces, and most of all in the PDPA and other patriotic forces, that they will safeguard the movement and our homeland's territorial integrity.

We can defend our homeland, our national principles, and our revolution. If we were not concerned about peace and welfare in the world, we could turn our enemies who violate our territory to ashes. We are not begging our enemies for peace; peace is the only humane path for safeguarding the world's [words indistinct]

Let everyone know that we are earnest supporters of peace.

If Ziaul Haq's regime does not refrain from attacking us, the time will come when it will burn in a fire of its own making.

We will not allow anybody to make Afghanistan suffer. It is not wise for anyone to test us in this way. It is not wise for anyone to doubt the victory of Afghanistan's patriots.

On this great day it is my duty to ask the heroes of Afghanistan's freedom and independence, the genuine heirs and fighters—the members of the PDPA and all patriotic forces of Afghanistan—to redouble their awareness and vigilance. The enemy is determined to massacre our brave people; they want to turn our cities and villages into ashes, they want to subjugate our free people and turn our living Afghanistan into a graveyard and [words indistinct].

Our party and other patriotic forces, as earnest servants of the people, will (?remove) everything, God willing, from the path of safeguarding the people's honor and pride.

Officers and men of the brave Afghan Army. Afghanistan's Independence Day and our patriotic Army Day coincide. The reason for this is clear because the Army plays a major role in the freedom, independence, and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

Our Army consists of the sons of Afghanistan's people, and total confidence can be placed in them. The fact that the Army has firmly withstood the current cruel aggression has brought praise from every Afghan.

On this auspicious day I congratulate all Army personnel on the occasion of both festivals. Relying on God, I promise to follow up on the call for peace and freedom.

We will turn to ashes the evil hopes of the oppressors, murderers, and enemies of freedom.

Peace will come and our people will always be mentioned as fighters for peace and justice. Success comes from God.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Interviewed

LD1408040888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Interview with Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces by an unidentified BAKHTAR reporter; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, chief of the Afghan Armed Forces, has granted the following interview to a BAKHTAR reporter on the occasion of Independence Day and Armed Forces Day in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Topics include the withdrawal of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union to their peace-loving country and the level of combat preparation of the Afghan Armed Forces.

Question: Esteemed Lt Gen Shahnawaz Tanay, chief of the General Staff of the Afghan Armed Forces, our compatriots will celebrate 18 August as Independence Day and Armed Forces Day. I would like to know how the Afghan Armed Forces will celebrate this day.

Answer: [Passage omitted] The Afghan Armed Forces have made the following preparations marking 18 August, Independence Day and Armed Forces Day: to establish better security in the garrisons and localities to create a peaceful and calm atmosphere, prevent subversive acts by irreconcilible extremist armed groups, improve combat and political training, enhance the combat capability of contingents and units, consolidate conscious military discipline, and improve living conditions for officials.

Preparations also include plans to coordinate voluntary work and create a task force for the construction of residential buildings for officials of the Armed Forces; recognize merit and the outstanding achievements of the Armed Forces, as seen in the defense of the April Revolution and the national reconciliation policy, by awarding medals, orders, and exceptional promotions; promote propaganda in connection with the instruments of the Geneva accord and strengthen the Armed Forces

for the independent defense of our national sovereignty and territorial integrity; to enlist the ever-increasing young volunteers in the ranks of the Afghan Armed Forces; take care of the dependents of the April Revolution's martyrs; ask about the health of patients in the central hospitals; lay wreaths on the tombs of the martyrs killed in the cause of independence and the revolution; and consolidate friendly relations between civilian youths and Armed Forces units.

These are the tasks facing the Armed Forces on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the independence of the country and the 3d anniversary of the Afghan Armed Forces. By completing these tasks we celebrate Independence Day and Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Question: As our compatriots know, half of the Soviet troops will have withdrawn to their peace-loving country by 15 August, in accordance with the timetable agreed on in the Geneva accords. Please tell us which provinces and areas this involves, and how do you asses the situation in these areas?

Answer: The Geneva accords, which have become the key to the solution of the situation around Afghanistan and have made the withdrawal of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union feasible is the result of the persistent and peace-loving efforts of the Afghan and Soviet leadership.

In line with the Geneva accords, the withdrawal of Soviet troops started on 26 Sawr 1367, corresponding with 15 May 1988, and thus far units have withdrawn to their peace-loving country from Nangarhar, Konar, Paktia, Ghazni, Lowgar, Bamian, Qandahar, Zabol, Badakhshan, and Konduz Provinces.

Therefore, we can say that right now there are no Soviet troops in 25 of the 31 provinces in the country.

It is obvious that, extavagant claims notwithstanding, the warmongering extremists not only have failed to occupy one inch of the cities in these areas, but also they have faced the crushing and fatal blows of our herioc Armed Forces, which now comprise a confident and strong fortress in the country's defense and the revolution.

Our Armed Forces have dealt them heavy losses and an irreparable and shameful defeat. The Afghan Armed Forces in these areas have strengthened the trust and confidence of the party and state leadership in the country's defense against the extremists and war-mongerers.

More than ever before, they are trusted by the people, and now, as you know, the situation in the areas from which Soviet troops have withdrawn is normal and satisfactory. With the neutralization of the attacks of the irreconcilible extremists, the work of the people continues as before.

A great number of former armed opposition groups have joined the revolutionary sovereignty in line with national reconciliation, after losing faith in the fanciful theories of the extremist groups.

Resolutely and with national pride and stoicism they defend our national independence and territorial integrity along with other Armed Forces of the country. We have experienced and powerful defense forces that enjoy the complete support of the people, and they are always ready to repulse the evil forces.

Question: How do you assess the Armed Forces' combat preparation to repell invasions and external interference?

Answer: Our heroic Armed Forces, which have become a creative force for securing peace since the declaration of national reconciliation and have demonstrated their role in safeguarding the territorial integrity and the settlement of the political tasks of national reconciliation and a complete end to the war and bloodshed in Afghanistan, have now reached a very high level of maturity and strength which enables them to independently and confidently execute their national and revolutionary duties.

In the present sensitive and complicated situation, attaining combat readiness during combat operations and instituting this throughout the units of the Armed Forces plays an important role in attaining combat-readiness and receives careful attention from the party and state leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan, in particular the attention of Esteemed Najibullah, the president of the Republic of Afghanistan and commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Contingents and units of the Afghan Armed Forces are armed with modern weapons and military techniques. Its ranks are strengthened with experienced and self-sacrificing cadres. The quality of the combat and political education of the personnel and the education of the commanders and staff has improved.

The training of personnel continues in operational and nonoperational situations, and this process is connected with land conditions and with the units' capabilities. Combat operation planning is not conducted under (?Shablunian) methods, but various methods are taken into account.

The results of military operations verify that over the past year our headquarters was able to utilize its forces correctly in strike maneuvers to exterminate extremist groups. The destruction of the enemy is an integral part of all planning objectives, as is the coordination of forces. As a result, many units of the Armed Forces are capable of inflicting powerful blows on the enemy in any situation.

Our Armed Forces today are a powerful force that has acquired much experience in launching combat operations. It is equipped with modern combat techniques as well. Today modern artillery systems, aircraft, tanks, and modern war machines—which the Armed Forces of many countries do not have—are operable and a strong and secret instrument of communication ensuring the stable command and operation of the Armed Forces.

Efficient repair and supply networks capable of meeting all needs are also available. Materiel needed by the Armed Forces are stored with some units for long periods of time. We can say that the level of readiness of the Afghan forces has increased many times compared with previous years.

The Armed Forces can independently defend the achievements of national reconciliation, territorial integrity, national independence, and the interests of the people of Afghanistan.

One of the principles of ensuring permanent peace in the country is that the Afghan Armed Forces defends peace with the direct cooperation of the people. The Ministry of Defense is considering specific plans for the enhancement of combat capability and the level of combat-readiness of the Armed Forces and the consolidation of Armed Forces links with the people.

We believe that the honorable Muslim people of Afghanistan are tired of this war and fratricide, and seek peace along with their heroic Armed Forces. The main problems facing the country and the people are to revitalize the economic system of villages that were damaged during the war years and to ensure appropriate living conditions for our returning compatriots.

The Armed Forces of Afghanistan are prepared to cooperate and assist in the resolution of these problems in addition to other important tasks.

'Democratic Parties' Salute Independence

LD1808085388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT18 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 17, BAKHTAR—The alliance of the left wing democratic parties of the Republic of Afghanistan in its statement issued today on the occasion of the 69th independence anniversary of Afghanistan and the Army Day of Afghanistan has congratulated the Afghan people on this auspicious day.

The statement has considered the experience of struggles and courageous resistance of the Afghan people against the British colonialism and their support for Shah Amanullah's reforms as a big lesson in the history of the country.

Now that 69 years have elapsed from the regaining of the country's independence, unfortunately Afghanistan is still backward, war torn and is subjected into a fratricidal war, the statement says.

The alliance of left wing democratic parties believes that nine years of (?bloodshed) in the country is not rather a short time for recognising one's friends and foes.

The people of Afghanistan who is passing through fire and blood should become master of its own destiny and must not allow plots and intrigues of reaction and imperialism aimed at further bloodshed in the country.

The alliance of left wing democratic parties of Afghanistan on the threshold of the 69th anniversary of the regaining of the Afghan independence and the name of Afghanistan, people, freedom, democracy and progress invite all military and political forces inside and outside the country to accept ceasefire immediately.

They must solve their disputes through political and peaceful means and dialogues and assist implementation of the Geneva accords, the statement goes on.

Let us come around each other and from now on put firm steps forward for the 70th anniversary celebrations of the independence of our country for next year.

We must do our best for the ensurance of cease-fire, peace and sudden upsurge for the progress of Afghanistan, this patriotic aspiration of the entire Afghan nation, the statement says.

73d Protest Note Submitted to UNGOMAP

LD1808084288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 17, BAKHTAR—The 73th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva agreements was submitted today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

Eight instances of the flagrant violations by Pakistan of the Article Two, document first of the Geneva agreements were pointed out in the notice.

The notice asked the UN mission to investigate the violations and inform the Republic of Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's representative of the results.

'Group of Extremists' in Konduz 'Crushed'

LD1708180488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1600 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] BIA reports from Konduz that a mass meeting of thousands of residents of Konduz and the surrounding area was held today in the Takharistan mosque.

After the recitation of some Koran verses Esteemed Mir Sahib Karwal, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, shed light on the destruction and looting perpetrated by the extremists which has resulted in the killing of children, women, old people, ulema, and clergy; in the destruction of public property; and in the disruption of calm and security in the Konduz cit area.

He condemned the treacherous acts of the extremists and then introduced the governor of Konduz, Brigadier General Mir 'Abdullah Faqirzadah, to the people.

The governor of Konduz thanked the leadership of Afghanistan for its confidence and vowed that he will not spare any effort to maintain peace and calm with the direct cooperation of the people of Konduz.

Then Major General Juma Atchek, commander of the northern group, assured the people of the province on behalf of the Armed Forces and of its contingents in the north that the extremists, the enemies of our people's peace and calm, have been crushed as a result of the activities of the Armed Forces.

The report adds that Haji Muhammad Amin, deputy chairman of the National Front, Sayyed 'Abdurrahmin Ghafar, member of the Wolasi Jirgah from the city of Konduz, and Haji 'Abdul Hakim, a Konduz Province dignitary, talked about the subversive and filthy deeds of the extremists and vowed to cooperate in ensuring peace and security in the province.

The BIA reporter adds that after the meeting the participants marched through the streets of the city of Konduz.

Foreign journalists in Konduz visited the areas destroyed as a result of armed attacks by the extremists.

According to another report, a group of extremists who were engaged in subversive activities in the city of Konduz were crushed as a result of the strikes of the Armed Forces with the direct cooperation of the local people.

Bangladesh

Ershad Sends Condolence Message to Pakistan

BK1808021288 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 0100 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] President Ershad has sent his condolences on the death of President Ziaul Haq and expressed his deep sorrow and grief. In a message last night to the Pakistani acting president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, he said that President Ziaul Haq was known as an ardent friend of Bangladesh and that the people of this country will always gratefully remember the gestures shown by him when he visited Dhaka in the wake of the Urirchar disaster to express his solidarity with our people.

The president said his death is not only a loss to the people of Pakistan, but also to the Islamic ummah. His contribution to the cause of Islam will be written in golden letters in (?the Islamic book).

President Ershad expressed his sorrow and his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. May Almighty God grant the fraternal people of Pakistan the strength to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude, he added.

3-Day Mourning Period

BK1808054588 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 0500 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Bangladesh will observe 3-day mourning period starting today to mark the death of President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan. The national flag will fly at half mast during this time.

This was decided this morning at a special meeting of the Council of Ministers presided over by President Ershad in Bangabhavan.

Delhi Cites Repression of Minority Communities

BK1808022588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, several political parties and minority organizations have complained of persecution of and atrocities on people belonging to the minority communities.

In a memorandum submitted to the Indian high commissioner in Dhaka, a delegation of Bangladesh Hindu League alleged large-scale exodus of Hindus to India from several districts of Bangladesh recently. The leader of the eight-party alliance and chief of the Awami League, Sheikh Hasina, said members of the minority community are subjected to repression.

India

Further Reportage, Comment on Ziaul Haq Death

Condolences Sent

BK1708174588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, have condoled the death of the Pakistani president, General Ziaul Haq.

In a message to the acting Pakistani president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, has expressed deep shock at the tragic demise of President Ziaul Haq. He said India shares the sense of grief and sorrow of the Pakistani people at this most unfortunate happening. We convey the heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family.

Expressing shock at the untimely death of President Haq, Mr Rajiv Gandhi in his message conveyed his deep condolences to Mrs Ziaul Haq and the family and to the government and people of Pakistan. The prime minister expressed the hope that the people of Pakistan will face the crisis with fortitude and calm.

Venkataraman To Attend Funeral

BK1808130588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, will represent India at the funeral of the Pakistani president, General Ziaul Haq. This was stated by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, after signing the condolence book at the Pakistani Embassy in New Delhi today.

The funeral will take place in Rawalpindi on Saturday [20 August] with state honors.

General Ziaul Haq died in an air crash near the eastern town of Bahawalpur in Pakistan yesterday afternoon.

Gandhi Signs Condolence Book

BK1808152988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, will represent India at the funeral of Mr Ziaul Haq. This was stated by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, after signing the condolence book at the Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi today.

India will strive to build healthy and friendly relations with Pakistan. This is what the prime minister wrote while signing the condolence book at the Pakistan Embassy today. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said India and Pakistan are bound by innumerable ties of history and culture. He sympathized with the people of Pakistan and wished them well.

Mr Gandhi wrote: In this hour of sorrow, my heart goes out to Begum Zia and other members of the family. May God give her strength to bear this tragic loss with fortitude.

Later, talking to newsmen, the prime minister said he and President Ziaul Haq worked hard to normalize relations between the two countries. There was progress in many areas. He described Mr Ziaul Haq as a very senior and experienced leader who contributed a lot to the SAARC.

National flags of all the SAARC countries on the Secretariat building in Kathmandu will fly at half-mast for 3 days from today as a mark of respect to President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan. The secretary general of the SAARC Secretariat, Mr Abul Ahsan, has sent a message of condolence to the Pakistani foreign minister.

Cabinet, Parliament Messages

BK1808070988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] India joined other nations in mourning the death of President Ziaul Haq. The union cabinet met in New Delhi this morning under the chairmanship of the prime minister and passed a condolence resolution expressing shock and grief of the government and people of India on the sudden and untimely demise of President Ziaul Haq.

The resolution says in this hour of tragedy India's profound sympathy goes out to the government and the people of Pakistan, particularly to Begum Zia and other members of the bereaved family. The members of the cabinet observed silence for a while in the memory of the departed Pakistani leader.

As a mark of respect to President Ziaul Haq, the Indian Government has decided to observe 3 days state mourning from today throughout the country.

Both Houses of Parliament also expressed grief over the death of President General Ziaul Haq. In the Lok Sabha, the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, said the House shares the sorrow of the people of Pakistan on the tragedy.

In the Rajya Sabha, the chairman, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, described the death of General Ziaul Haq as untimely and tragic. Members in both the Houses observed silence for a shortwhile in memory of the departed leader.

Official, Media Reaction

BK1808082088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0709 GMT 18 Aug 88

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 18 (AFP)—India fears military and political instability in Pakistan after President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's death Wednesday could complicate relations between the two countries, analysts said here Wednesday.

The succession of General Ziaul Haq, who died in a plane crash in the east of the country, could lead to political turmoil and possibly trigger unrest among the Pakistan's powerful military establishment, the analysts said.

Minister of State for External Affairs K. Natwar Singh Wednesday said New Delhi would keep a "close watch" on the situation, but that it was too early to say how the death would affect the strained relations between the two neighbours.

India proclaimed three days of mourning Thursday for Gen. Ziaul Haq, and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, expressing "deep shock and distress," said in a message to Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan: "I hope and trust that the people of Pakistan will face this crisis with fortitude and calm."

Political experts here said the situation in Pakistan would become clearer in the coming days, allowing New Delhi to determine its "next step."

"President Ziaul Haq's death will have no immediate effect on our relations with Pakistan," a senior minister said. New Delhi would eagerly await to learn the policies of his successor, he said.

The minister said relations between the two countries, which have fought three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947, would also depend on the Pakistani military's attitude towards their new leader and his policies.

"How can we say yet if there will be any military or political setbacks (in relations) because of President Ziaul Haq's death?" Foreign Secretary K.P.S. Menon told AFP Wednesday.

Observers say that although New Delhi opposed Gen. Ziaul Haq's policies, it also saw him a symbol of stability.

"There are now fears that the vacuum created by (his death) could lead to all-round instability," a source close to the government said.

Mr. Gandhi had stepped up an anti-Pakistan campaign in recent weeks, accusing Islamabad of buying sophisticated armaments from the United States, of helping Sikh separatists in Punjab, and of developing nuclear weapons.

Gen. Ziaul Haq had denied all the charges.

Relations between the two countries reached a new low in January 1987 after India held a massive military exercise codenamed "Operation Brass Tracks" on the border with Pakistan, with about 250,000 troops taking part.

Islamabad responded by massing its own troops to the border, raising fears of another war.

Official bilateral talks since have failed to normalise strained ties.

Gen. Ziaul Haq last year tried what has since been dubbed "cricket diplomacy" to improve links, but India continued to level charges against its Western neighbour.

In a move seen here as an attempt to win over Indian public opinion, Gen. Ziaul Haq Sunday conferred Pakistan's highest civilian award on former Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai, but the move drew strong criticism from Mr. Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party.

Both opposition and government leaders in India, as well as independent newspapers, lamented Gen. Zia's death.

Lal Krishna Advani, leader of the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party, said: "Perhaps no other leader in Pakistan proved as enduring and lasting as President Ziaul Haq. India will naturally watch the course of events in Pakistan with concern."

Indian newspapers came out with front page editorials Thursday, reflecting New Delhi's fears about the post-Ziaul Haq era.

"Mr. Gandhi realised better than most that the general understood only the language of strength and that sooner or later he could be perhaps the most valued interlocuter that New Delhi has had in Islamabad," the influential TIMES OF INDIA said.

The TIMES predicted a period of uncertainty in Pakistan, with a possible tug-of-war between military and civilian leaders.

"It will be hard to tell which way such a confrontation will go, but on present indications a mass movement in favour of a full civilian democracy seems to be the likely prospect," it said.

The mass-circulation HINDUSTAN TIMES wrote: "With General Ziaul Haq's death, Indo-Pakistan relations, which are passing through a difficult period, will enter a new phase."

Newspapers emphasised that the acting president was a close associate of Gen. Ziaul Haq, regarded as a hardliner opposed to the Army giving up power.

"Politically, India is watching how the (Pakistan) Army reacts to the interim set-up and who eventually emerges as the strongman... only then there will be possibility of guessing what the new rulers of Pakistan plan for their own people and what they harbour for India," the pro-Moscow PATRIOT said.

"India will hope that the post-Zia regime would proceed in the direction of rebuilding Pakistan in the interests of its people and follow a policy of friendship towards all countries," the pro-government NATIONAL HERALD said.

Flags To Fly 'Half Mast'

BK1808032588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Flags on government buildings in India will fly half mast for 3 days from today as a mark of respect to the departed leader [Ziaul Haq of Pakistan]. A special meeting of the union cabinet to be held this morning will adopt a resolution of condolence.

Violence Continues in Jammu, Kashmir

Kashmir Chief Comments

BK1708104088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Faruq Abdullah, has lashed out the elements which indulged in antinational acts, violence, and arson, and tried to burn a place of worship in Srinagar city during the last 3 days. Reacting to the views expressed by some members on these incidents in the state assembly today, Dr Abdullah said the government will not allow such elements to vitiate peace in the state.

'Shoot-at-Sight' Orders

BK1808032188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] In Srinagar, indefinite curfew has been imposed from early this morning with shoot-at-sight orders as a precautionary measure. This follows some attempts of arson and violence last evening in the city.

2 Killed, 5 Injured

BK1808131788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two persons were killed and five received bullet injuries when police opened fire in Srinagar today to disperse violent mobs. They were trying to defy the curfew restrictions.

In Anantnag town, miscreants stoned vehicles, houses, and some offices. Their attempt to burn a place of worship was foiled by the police. In Baramula town, a violent mob set fire to a community hall, a transport yard and an excise [liquor] shop.

The chief minister, Dr Faruq Abdullah, said the government will take all steps to bring the situation under control.

Police Fire at Mourners

BK1808122688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1144 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 18 (AFP)—Police opened fire Thursday on Muslims rioting in Srinigar following the death of Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, killing two people and wounding about 10, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Police opened fire at several places in the Muslim-dominated northern city after hundreds of youths defied an indefinite curfew imposed earlier in the day and took to the streets shouting pro-Pakistan slogans, the news agency said.

The two who died were identified as Mansur Ahmad and Mushtaq Ahmad.

General Zia died Wednesday in a plane crash that also killed the head of the armed forces, the U.S. Ambassador to Islamabad and 27 other people. Pakistani defence officials said they suspected sabotage.

The police action came shortly after authorities issued shoot-on-sight orders to quell large-scale arson and violence by Muslim mobs in Srinigar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Army troops have been deployed in Srinigar's main streets, while paramilitary forces are protecting key government installations, PTI said.

Mr. Ahmad died when security forces fired at a mob trying to torch vehicles parked at a bus stand in the Batamaloo area, PTI said. Mushtaq Ahmad was allegedly looting Hindu homes in another area when he was killed.

Violence was also reported from Baramullah, a town near the border with Pakistan where Muslim mobs attacked several buildings including two police stations, as well as in Anantnag further south.

Officials here said scores of youths mourning Gen. Ziaul Haq had rioted in central Srinigar, attacking government buildings, stoning houses, uprooting flagpoles and trying unsuccessfully to set fire to two vital bridges. PTI said two religious shrines were also attacked, without specifying if they were Hindu temples.

Sporadic violence has been continuing in Srinagar since Sunday, when pro-Pakistan groups marked the country's independence day by hoisting the flag of the Muslim nation.

On Tuesday, police fired on stone throwing pro-Pakistani demonstrators after clashes left more than 100 injured, most of them policemen. More than 70 rioters were injured the previous day.

Jammu and Kashmir, which borders Pakistan and is India's only Muslim-majority state, has been a bone of contention between the two countries, which have fought three wars since 1947. Pakistan holds a third of Kashmir territory. Developments in Pakistan are often reflected in the state.

When Gen. Ziaul Haq ordered the execution by hanging of former Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1978, hundreds of Muslims in Srinigar went on a rampage, attacking pro-Pakistani Muslim politicians.

2 Pakistani 'Intruders' Shot

BK1708085788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] In Jammu, the Border Security Force [BSF] shot dead two Pakistani intruders in the R.S. Pura sector yesterday. According to a BSF spokesman, the intruders on being challenged by a naka [patrol] party started running back toward the border when the security forces opened fire, killing the two.

10 'Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab 17 Aug

BK1808032988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, security forces arrested 10 terrorists in Amritsar and Ferozepore Districts last night. Three Chinese assault rifles, 1 machine gun, 2 revolvers, and about 500 rounds of ammunition were recovered.

In another incident, terrorists shot dead a home guard in his house in Samana town. His two children were seriously injured.

Home Minister Calls Pakistani Award 'Joke'

BK1708142588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has described Pakistan's announcement to confer its highest award on Mr Morarji Desai as a clever and mean joke on the honor and respect of India. He hoped that Mr Desai will understand the joke and decide about the acceptance of the award.

Mr Buta Singh, however, added that it is for Mr Desai to accept it or not. The home minister made these remarks during his reply in the Lok Sabha today to a discussion on the National Security Amendment Bill which the house later passed by a voice vote.

Opposition Welcomes Award

BK1808072588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Three opposition parties have welcomed the conferring of Pakistan's highest award on Mr Morarji Desai. In a statement in New Delhi today, the Janata Party president, Mr Ajit Singh, said such a gesture will help normalize relations between the people of the two countries.

The BJP vice president, Mr Sikander Singh, said the event must be viewed by separating it from the political and diplomatic (?trend).

Lok Dal leaders, in their statements, termed it as a success of the foreign policy of the then Janata Government.

All the three parties criticized the Congress-I statement on the issue.

Arun Singh Resigns From Rajya Sabha

BK1708102088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Mr Arun Singh, a member of the Rajya Sabha and a former minister, has resigned from the House. This was announced by the chairman, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, in the House today. The chairman said Mr Arun Singh has not given any reason for his resignation in his letter to him.

Minister Reports Nuclear Power Generation Plans

BK1708135388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The minister of state for science and technology, Mr K.R. Narayanan, assured the Lok Sabha today that all possible measures will be taken to protect ecology and environment while setting up nuclear power plants. All safety standards will also be adhered to.

Replying to supplementaries during the question hour, Mr Narayanan said about 10,000 megawatt of atomic power is to be developed in the country by the turn of the century. He said, however, energy resources being limited in the country, there is a need for developing nuclear energy to supplement power generation from other sources.

Iran

Reportage on Visit of Pakistan's Yaqub Khan

Arrives, Interviewed at Airport

LD1708161988 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived here today at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati and was met at the airport by a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

In an interview with IRNA at Mehrabad International Airport, Yaqub Khan said in his talks with Velayati major international issues, including the Afghan problem, would be discussed.

He said he was looking forward to consultations with Iranian officials on the Afghan issue in order that the two countries coordinate a single policy, considering their common interests.

Velayati also speaking in an interview with IRNA, expressed hope that the talks would be fruitful and beneficial to the two countries' interests.

Yaqub Khan's scheduled visit coincides with the sad news of Pakistani President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq's unfortunate death in a plane crash near the Indian border, the details of which were not immediately available.

Yaqub Khan is to stay here for a day and is expected to leave for Pakistan tomorrow.

Cuts Visit Short

NC1708172588 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Dear viewers, before my colleague continues with the world reports, I would like to inform you that because of the death of Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan has interrupted his visit to Tehran and left for Pakistan. We have not yet received any news on his return to Pakistan.

Commentary Views Visit

LD1708133888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1105 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Station commentary: "The Pakistani Foreign Minister's Trip to Iran"]

[Text] Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan begins his 3-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran today. He is carrying messages from President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan to Mr Khamene'i, the Islamic President of Iran, and other responsible officials of our country.

A news unit report, quoting Pakistani sources, indicates that Mr Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, during a meeting with Foreign Minister Dr Velayati, is supposed to discuss bilateral relations, important regional issues, Afghanistan, and other issues of mutual interest.

It is also expected that during his stay in Tehran, the Pakistani foreign minister will meet and confer with the Iran's president and prime minister.

In view of the friendly relations between Iran and Pakistan, political observers attach particular importance to Mr Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's meetings with Iran's high-ranking officials; these meetings had been were postponed due to Dr Velayati's trip to the United Nations.

The same observers, referring to the two countries' close stands, particularly on regional issues such as Afghanistan—which it is said will cover a significant part of the talks between Pakistan's and Iran's foreign ministers—believe that the visit of Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, particularly under the present circumstances, has something to do with current developments in Afghanistan and the continuing departure of Soviet forces from that country.

It is expected, therefore, that Pakistan's foreign minister will brief Iranian officials on his recent talks with the Soviet foreign minister in Moscow. The Soviet Union has recently accused Pakistan of supporting the Muslim Afghan mujahedin and has warned the Pakistani Government on this issue.

The Soviet accusations blaming Pakistan for not cooperating with implementing the Geneva accords have been raised at a time when, after the departure of half of the Soviet forces and the Kabul regime's failure to replace the Soviet soldiers with its own forces, there is no hope of a future for the regime ruling over Kabul.

For the same reason, the Soviet Government spokesman announced yesterday that there is no program for withdrawing the remaining Soviet forces from Afghanistan ahead of schedule, that is, by 15 February. He stressed: At present, the situation does not necessitate quicker withdrawal of the forces.

The repeated Soviet accusations against Pakistan, blaming that country of undermining the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, and the Soviet Union's decision to reserve the right to change its mind as the situation dictates, have strengthened suspicion among the observers on Afghan affairs that the USSR might, in view of its concern for the ever-increasing weakness of the Kabul regime in the political and military fields and to safeguard its interests in that country, slow down the rate of withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan.

The USSR'S concern toward the changing situation in Afghanistan, which is deteriorating as a result of deep internal discord within the Kabul regime on the one hand, and Moscow's failed efforts to form a coalition government in Kabul with the participation of the communists on the other, justifies the recent Soviet stance vis-a-vis Pakistan and the problem of Afghanistan.

The Pakistani foreign minister's current trip is within the framework of the two countries' relations to exchange views on bilateral ties and how to strengthen them. It also attends to the most important common problem of

the two countries and that of the region, which is the issue of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan under the existing sensitive circumstances.

Khamene'i Sends Condolences to Pakistan

LD1808104588 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i in a message to acting President of Pakistan Ghulam Ishaq Khan Thursday expressed condolences over the death of President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan in a plane crash Wednesday.

The president said Ziaul Haq's loss has put him in deep grief and described the late Pakistani president as a "competent leader and a good friend."

Khamene'i said Ziaul Haq's absence is a great loss for Pakistan and expressed confidence that the strong will of the Pakistani people will fill the vacuum created by his death.

President Khamene'i said that the Iranians as before will stand at the side of their Pakistani brethren and will continue their friendly and brotherly relations with the neighbouring Pakistan.

Cables Ziaul Haq's Widow

LD1808072888 Tehran IRNA in English 0215 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i cabled a message of condolences to the Pakistani president's wife Begum Shafiq Ziaul Haq Wednesday immediately after hearing the sad news of his death in a military plane crash.

Said the message:

"I was deeply saddened over the sad news of the demise of my brother, His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in an air incident.

"You have lost a committed husband, me a wise and conscious brother, and the Pakistani people a prudent servant and patriotic leader. Without doubt, the Muslim people of Pakistan, during the post-independence years, have not seen a person at managerial position with such prudence and intelligence, honesty and sincerity as well as strong will and determination.

"I, together with the people and Government of Iran share the public mourning of the Pakistani people and pray to the Almighty to forgive him (Ziaul Haq) and wish you patience."

President Ziaul Haq was killed Wednesday afternoon when a C-130 Hercules transport plane in which he was travelling exploded in mid-air a few minutes after take-off from Bhawalpur in Punjab Province near the Indian border.

The late Pakistani president was reportedly on a survey of military bases in the area and other prominent casualties in the air disaster included the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Arnold Raphel, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Akhtar Abdur Rahman and the chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Mian Mohammad Afzal.

Ziaul Haq, 64, came to power in 1977 after staging a coup against the then civilian premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, and in 1979 ended the latter's life in a hangman's noose after a summary trial.

Ironically it was Bhutto himself who to quell the rising discontent in Pakistan at that time had appointed the comparatively junior Ziaul Haq as martial law administrator over the heads of the top military brass.

General Ziaul Haq after a long rule as chief law administrator named himself president in 1985.

General Ziaul Haq's sudden death could trigger significant domestic and regional repercussions. In the internal scene Ziaul Haq's death has already clouded the forthcoming general elections scheduled for November, while on the regional level it could spell an end to Pakistan's role as a bridge between the U.S. and the Afghan mujahidin fighting the joint Soviet-Kabul forces.

The immediate effect could be the postponement of the elections and an end to Pakistan's firm support for the Afghan mujahidin. The military is also expected to tighten its grip on the Islamic country.

Ten days of mourning has been declared in Pakistan and the chairman of the Senate (Upper House) Ghulam Ishaq Khan has taken over as the head of the state.

'Good War Time Relations' With PRC Noted

LD1808081288 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Visiting Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Qi Huaiyuan met with several Iranian officials here Wednesday afternoon at the second day of his stay in Tehran.

In a meeting with Iranian Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, Qi conveyed a message from the Chinese minister of agriculture and stated his country's readiness for agricultural cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Qi said that China had a good experience in agriculture and could put them at the disposal of Iran.

Zali said that both countries have been enjoying good agricultural cooperation in the past few years adding that Iran welcomes expanded relations. He expressed the hope that steps will be taken in this respect.

The Chinese official in another meeting with Deputy Prime Minister for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh stressed expansion of technical, scientific and industrial cooperation.

Qi informed the Iranian official of his country's readiness for cooperation in the post-war reconstruction programs in Iran and also expresed the hope that the forthcoming session of the joint economic commission will help further strengthen Tehran-Beijing ties.

Mirzadeh said that good war time relations of Iran and China could improve further in post-war times and also hoped that the session of the joint economic commission, the fourth of its kind, will lead to greater economic cooperation between the two countries.

Mirzadeh told Qi Iran has received many proposals for post-war reconstruction and added these proposals will be studied in the light of the past relations. Those which have cooperated with Iran in war times will enjoy priority, Mirzadeh stressed.

In the second round of negotiations with Foreign Ministry deputy for Asia-Oceania affairs Javad Mansuri, the Chinese official discussed economic and technical cooperation as well as issues of mutual interest.

Mansuri said that good potentials existed for Tehran-Beijing cooperation in the fields of ship building, mines, fisheries and manpower training.

The two officials also discussed issues of Cambodia, Afghanistan and China-USSR ties.

Agricultural Cooperation Discussed

LD1708144588 Tehran IRNA in English 1424 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—Visiting Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan met with Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali here Wednesday and discussed with him mutual cooperation in the fields of foodstuff, agro industries, fisheries and natural resources.

Zali, referring to the expansion of Tehran-Beijing ties after the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution, noted that in view of China's experience in the agricultural sector the two countries can boost their cooperation in this area.

In response, the Chinese official announced Beijing's preparedness to expand its agricultural cooperation with Iran.

Kurds Reportedly Kill 500 Iraqi Troops

LD1708205488 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Iraqi Kurdish combatant forces killed 500 Saddami regime troops during a series of operations in Iraqi Kordestani regions. The Iraq's Kordestan Democratic Party (KDP), releasing a report announced this news item yesterday and said: These operations began on August 12th, when the Iraqi regime's troops planes and helicopters, deploying chemical arms, started a new attack against the Kurds.

Based on this report, the war is still raging in this region and Iraqi troops have been forced back to their original positions. It is pointed out in this report that in the course of Saddam regime's recent chemical attack on Iraqi Kordestan, more than 1,000 civilians have lost their homes.

Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Iraq's Democratic Party has called on the UN organization and the international community to take measures for the termination of Iraqi regime's attacks against the Kurdish people of Iraq.

Khamene'i Advises Combatants To Remain Alert

LD1708105088 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Southern operational theater, Aug. 17, IRNA—International observers believe Iran now maintains the political initiative due to its acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, said President 'Ali Khamene'i at a southern operational theater Wednesday. He warned the nation to get ready to cope with any kind of threat by the Iraqi regime.

Earlier on Tuesday Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a message to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar warned him against impending Iraqi military attacks on Iran before the U.N.-mediated cease-fire which is to become effective August 20.

The foreign minister said that there are indications that the Baghdad regime intends to launch on a series of military attacks on land, at sea and in the air.

The president talking to a group of Muslim combatants in one of the operational axes in southern zones said the 8- year resistance of the Iranian nation revealed to all world statesmen the futility of dreaming to attack the Islamic Iran.

The world has now realised that the Iranian nation is a united, brave, vigilant and combatant one.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic was passing through a very crucial point. The world and future generations, he said, will praise Iran's resolute moves.

All the money, weapons, political and propaganda means of the world arrogance, he said, were expended in order to bring the brave nation of Iran to its knees. However, he added, the enemy found itself entrapped after eight years.

Referring to the Iraqi moves after Iran's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and to the pouring of the people into the battle fronts, the president said that if the Iranian nation did not carry out the proper action or show vigilance at that time, all their efforts would have been foiled.

He added the presence of the people at war fronts stabilized the power of Islam and the Islamic revolution and proved that the Iranian people are soldiers of revolution.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council, reminded that the sudden cessation of Iraq's operations was due to its fear of the nation's presence. If the Iraqi regime could advance, it would doubtlessly do it. But it was overawed by the people's pouring into the war fronts.

He stressed that there is a political battle ahead which is not less important than the military warfare. In this war, he added, the Iranian nation will not accept the slightest bullying.

In another meeting with Muslim combatants, the president warned them against possible enemy threats after the announcement of cease-fire and urged them to preserve their defensive power and vigilance.

He stressed that everything will be all right after several years of effort, resistance and hardship. He said the power of Islam and the Islamic Republic is lasting and great, and that after 8-years of manuvering against the Islamic revolution, by the oppressive powers the revolution holds out as firm as anytime in its history.

25 UNIIMOG Observers Arrive in Tehran

LD1708164088 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—A 25-man contingent of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) arrived here this afternoon.

The team is to join the previous 5-man group which arrived in Iran last week to monitor a cease-fire in the Iraqi-Iran war on the basis of Resolution 598. A formal cease-fire is to be declared next Saturday to be followed by face-to-face talks in Geneva on Aug. 25, between representatives of Iran and Iraq.

Meanwhile, the UNIIMOG Commander Maj. Gen. Slavko Jovic is to arrive here Thursday.

Observer Comments on Mission

LD1708175688 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Belgrade, August 17, IRNA—"We expect to find a common language with our hosts, that they will assist us and that we will cooperate with Iraqi and Iranian representatives on the assignments entrusted to us by the U.N. secretary general, Perez de Cuellar, and the Security Council as set out in Resolution 598," declared a member of the Yugoslav operative group of the U.N. observer mission on Wednesday.

The statement came prior to the group's departure from Larnaca en route to Baghdad after a one-day stop-over in Cyprus. Eleven Yugoslav officers, headed by Major General Slavko Jovic, arrived in Baghdad just before 14.00 hours local time, for brief consultations before proceeding on Thursday to Tehran.

While the operative group headquarters will be in Iran, Major Jovic will most probably commute between the two capitals, TANJUG reports from Nicosia.

The mission, whose task will be to monitor the ceasefire along the Iran-Iraq border, includes approximately 350 officers from 24 countries, assisted by a back-up force of around 300 civilians.

"Our task is to ensure, establish and maintain the ceasefire which comes into effect on 20 August—the initial phase of the truce which began with the acceptance of Resolution 598 and the general secretary's plan: said mission commander Major-General Jovic.

Jovic (58) is a Serb from Bosnia, who joined Tito's partisans as a boy of 14 in 1944. Remaining in the Army after the war, he graduated from the Military Academy in 1951. During his active career he served as company commander, and later in the Defence Ministry, where he was responsible for relations with foreign military missions to Yugoslavia.

In 1962 he became deputy commander of the U.N. peace- keeping forces in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. From 1970-73 he was Yugoslavia's military attache in Sudan.

The U.N. decision to appoint a Yugoslav officer as commander of the peace-keeping force on the Iraq-Iran border, has already been hailed here by army circles as "a credit to Yugoslavia's peace-loving policy and the Yugoslav People's Army."

Speaking at a ceremony earlier this week, Chief of the General Staff General Stevan Mirkovic pointed out that the army from year to year was being allotted fewer resources from the national budget and had become the butt of attacks and criticism. In spite of this, it has for many years been developing cooperation with the armies of other countries, General Mirkovic said.

UN Urged To Prevent Iraqi 'Aggression'

LD1708135588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Since 20 August, the day set as the official cease-fire date in the war imposed by Iraq against Iran, is approaching, yesterday Foreign Minister Velayati sent a message to the UN secretary general.

In the light of repeated Iraqi violations of bilateral and international treaties and agreements, Mr Velayati's message warned about the future attacks of the Iraqi regime before the implementation of the cease-fire.

The message was delivered to the UN secretary general by the Iranian representative in the UN. It states that Iraq intends to carry out a series of military operations on land, air, and at sea against the Islamic Republic of Iran before the imposition of the cease-fire.

Disregarding the UN secretary general's request for restraint before the implementation of the cease-fire, the Iraqi Government has set out to repeatedly violate Iranian air space in the southern and western areas.

Meanwhile, in a criminal act it has attacked some areas of Western Iran, such as Oshnoviyeh, with chemical weapons. The Iraqi Government's behavior during the imposed war and its resort to war crimes has revealed that this regime can never be trusted.

In the light of Iraqi behavior during the last few weeks, it is necessary for the secretary general and the Security Council to take action in connection with the endangerment of that organization's efforts toward the implementation of a cease-fire which is the preface to a lasting peace.

Iraq has not as yet replied to the UN request for restraint on both sides, and it continues its aggression on Iran. It seems that the continuation of this movement is an obstructionist act to delay the implementation of the cease-fire and the ultimate establishment of lasting peace in the region. The Iraqi regime is entangled in public opinion's questions about its reasons for starting the war.

Therefore Iraq considers it necessary to rid itself of the internal consequences of these questions, through buying time by resorting to propaganda ploys and creating a hue and cry. In this connection, Iraqi officials have, during the last few days, been trying to hide the obvious facts about the imposed war by resorting to the publication of fabricated and agitational material. These acts demonstrate the Iraqi efforts to formulate reasons and justifications for its initiation of the war.

On the other hand, at the same time as the secretary general's efforts to prepare the preliminary ground for deploying UN cease-fire observer forces along the Iran-Iraq border, yesterday the UN General Assembly ratified the necessary budget for these forces for a 3-month period. The UN administrative apparatus is facing numerous financial problems because some countries have refused to pay their membership fees; the amount of some other countries' contribution should be changed.

Therefore the ratification of this budget and some countries' declaration of their readiness to contribute to the costs and expenses of these forces strengthens the hope of a speedy positioning of UN troops along the common border.

The Islamic Republic has always given practical proof of its conformity with international conventions and provisions. Therefore, it is necessary that the United Nations, in light of the Iraqi regime's past reputation of repeated violation of international conventions, takes appropriate action to prevent the Iraqi regime from continuing its aggression.

'Large' Forces From Mianeh Leave for Fronts

LD1708172488 Tehran Domestic Service In Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] This morning a large number of fresh mobilization forces from Mianeh left for the country's southern and western borders. Their departure is part of the continuing process of sending popular volunteer forces to the battlefronts in order to guard the Islamic homeland's borders.

Further on Larijani Interview on Resolution 598

NC1708185288 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Aug 88

["Second Part" on report on interview with Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for American and European affairs, by unidentified correspondents on 13 August—place not given]

[Text] Replying to a question on what events could have taken place had Iran not declared its acceptance of the Security Council resolution on 18 July, Brother Larijani said:

We must differentiate between the two issues. Our primary decision was to end the fighting. Ending the fighting at that time had become an urgent necessity because we had reached the conclusion that a need existed to end the war. The secondary issue was how to end the fighting. Iran saw Resolution 598 as the best way to bring the fighting to an end.

On the other hand, there was no better alternative in those circumstances. If we had sought better solutions and alternatives, it could have taken months. Additionally, we would have been waiting at a time when Resolution 598 was ready and acceptable to the international community. Thus, it was natural to use that tool to end the conflict between the two parties.

Regarding the events that could have taken place had Iran not accepted the resolution in those circumstances, Larijani replied: It is difficult to answer this question.

However, I can say that there were two alternatives. The first was suspending the resolution to end the conflict, which would have meant increasing tension in the region. The second alternative was to end the conflict through other means. Evidently, we could not, in this case, reach the desired result that quickly.

Regarding the statements by the Islamic Republic's president and foreign minister that Iran's diplomacy was successful, capable, and forceful in confronting the resolution, Larijani said:

The importance of Iran's political action at the international level is an undisputed fact. Iran's acceptance thwarted the plot of the United States and its partners, the arms merchants, against Iran [words indistinct].

On the other hand, Iranian diplomacy succeeded in foiling Iraq's attempts, with its preconditions, to prevent implementation of the resolution. The Iraqi side was forced ultimately to withdraw its conditions, to agree to the cease-fire resolution, and to act [word indistinct] according to the UN general secretary's plan. This completely conforms to Iran's demands and policy.

Quake, Tremors Damage Mamasani Area

LD1708143688 Tehran IRNA in English 1401 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Shiraz, Khalij-e Fars Prov., Aug. 17, IRNA—Earthquakes shook the town of Mamasani a record 127 times over the past week, the most intensive of which registered 6.2 degrees on the Richter scale. Mamasani is located 850 kms. south of Tehran in Khalij-e Fars Province.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi's special envoy Jalil Besharati heading a delegation is already in the town to assess the damage to the quake-stricken areas, and also to conduct necessary relief operations.

The recurring quakes have so far destroyed and damaged about 2,000 houses in Mamasani villages, but casualties have been surprisingly low, with one villager killed and 6 others wounded.

Moderate Earthquakes Shake Bojnurd Area

LD1708121788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] The Mashhad seismological base, a subsidiary of Tehran University's geophysics department, reported that yesterday several earthquakes rocked Bojnurd and its suburbs. The strongest earthquake, which registered 4 on the Richter scale, happened at 2129 hours and 17 seconds.

According to a Central News Unit report, the epicenter of this earthquake was near Bojnurd, 220 to 230 km northwest of Mashhad. Fortunately, there were no casualties.

Pakistan

Further Reportage on Crash Killing Ziaul Haq

Deceased Named

BK1708173488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1700 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The Government of Pakistan has announced with profound grief and sorrow that President Mohammad Ziaul Haq died in a plane accident this afternoon. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq had gone on a brief visit to Bahawalpur where he inspected military units.

On the return trip, his C-130 plane took off from the Bahawalpur Airport and soon after takeoff exploded in the air. According to information received so far, no passengers on the plane with the president escaped alive.

The following people were accompanying the president: General Akhtar Abdur Rahman, the Joint Chiefs of Staff committee chairman; Lieutenant General Mian Mohammad Afzal, chief of general staff; Major General Mohammad Sharif Nasir; Maj Gen Abdus Sami; Maj Gen Mohammad Hussain Awan; Brigadier General Najib Ahmed; Brig Gen Moinuddin Khwaja; Brig Gen Siddiq Salik; Brig Gen Mohammad Latif; Brig Gen Abdul Majid; Colonel Safdar Mahmud; Squadron Leader Rahat Mujib Siddiqi; Captain Zahid Rana; U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Raphel; and the U.S. Brig Gen [Herbert M.] Wassom.

The names of the members of crew are as follows: Wing Commander Masud, Squadron Leader Zulfiqar, Flight Lieutenant Sajid, Flt Lt Ismat, Chief Warrant Officer Dorez, Chief Technician Latif, Ch Tech Rafique, Senior Technician Firdaus, Sr Tech Habib, Sr Tech Rashid, Sr Tech Aziz, Sr Tech Manzar, Sr Tech Azhar, Junior Technician Shifqat, and Naib Subedar Mohammad Shafi. [passage omitted]

Sabotage Suspected

BK1808072088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 18 (AFP)—The plane crash that killed Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq Wednesday is believed to have been caused by sabotage, Defense ministry officials here told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Thursday.

Several ministry officials told AFP they believed that the C-130 Pakistani Air Force plane carrying 30 people had a bomb on board or was hit by a missile shortly after taking off in eastern Pakistan.

The results of an investigation should be known Thursday, they added.

"The C-130 is a solid plane and a technical incident appeared unlikely," an official said.

Former Air Force Chief Air Marshal Asghar Khan was Thursday quoted as saying he was 99 percent certain the plane was brought down by sabotage.

The C-130 is a 'very safe military plane' that suffers little damage in an accident, the newspaper THE MUSLIM reported him as saying.

The fact that General Zia's plane was completely destroyed convinced Air Marshal Asghar Khan, a former pilot, that it had been brought down by an act of sabotage, it said.

Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said in a televised address to the nation Wednesday that initial reports indicated there had been a mid-air explosion on the plane and "the possibility of sabotage could not be ruled out."

There had previously been three murder attempts on Gen. Zia, the Pakistani press said Thursday.

U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Arnold Raphel and chief of the Pakistani Armed Forces General Akhtar Abdul Rahman were among those killed in the crash at Bahawalpur in eastern Pakistan.

The military transport plane was transformed into a presidential aircraft with a specially fitted interior containing seats and tables and a bomb could have been planted there, the defense ministry officials said.

'Foreign Power' Suspected

BK1808124788 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 18 Aug 88

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] (?Before) going on the air, we have heard that the remains of Pakistan's former president are being flown back to Islamabad amid increasing reports that the explosion which destroyed his aircraft was caused by sabotage. George Arney reports:

[Begin Arney recording] After being salvaged from the site of the wrecked aircraft, General Ziaul Haq's remains will be buried in Rawalpindi on Saturday [20 August] after midday prayers. Messages of condolence have been flooding in from world leaders, and a large number of foreign dignitaries are expected to attend the funeral.

What exactly happened is still far from clear. Eyewitnesses quoted by Radio Pakistan have given two different accounts. One said the plane caught fire before crashing; others said it blew up in mid-air. The search is still going on for the aircraft's flight recorder, but the Army Intelligence Directorate, ISI, is reported to be convinced that it was an act of sabotage.

Since most of the technicians who serviced the plane were blown up alongside the president, it's thought unlikely that something was planted on board. Some (?sort) of missile attack from the ground is presently the favorite theory. Some Pakistani officials privately say they suspect the involvement of a foreign power.

Most observers agree that the death of General Ziaul Haq and his right-hand man General Akhtar Abdur Rahman is likely to have an effect on Pakistan's policy in Afghanistan. The two men were deeply committed to an ultimate victory for the fundamentalist factions of the Afghan guerrillas. [end recording]

Ziaul Haq Burial in Rawalpindi Set for 20 Aug

BK1808025688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0210 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] The late president will be buried in Rawalpindi on Saturday [20 August] after noontime prayers.

Acting President Ishaq Khan Addresses Nation

BK1708213288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1858 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Address to nation by Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan; place not given—live]

[Text] Dear countrymen: Peace be upon you. By now you might have heard the tragic news that President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq died in an air accident this afternoon. The Koran says: We are for God and we will return to him. The president went to Bahawalpur on a

brief visit. At about 1630 [1130 GMT], his plane took off from Bahawalpur airport for Islamabad, but it exploded in the air only a few minutes after takeoff.

Unfortunately, the president and his entire entourage died in the accident and reached their real master. As Muslims we believe that people dying in such accidents achieve martyrdom. The holy Koran says those who achieve martyrdom should not be considered dead. You do not understand that they are alive. Our souls are greatly overwhelmed by sorrow by this fatal accident. With tears and mourning we pray to our God so he showers blessings on the deceased and enable their families to withstand this tragic shock.

Dear countrymen, this accident is not only a great tragedy, but a hard test for the nation. A test that we will have to overcome together. Dynamic nations resort to patience, unity, stability and determination during such a test and thereby emerge successful. Trials by fire turn nations into gold and they shine more. Their determination becomes higher and stronger. I believe that we will also emerge as a stronger, more united nation after this unforeseen trial.

I believe that every Pakistani citizen at this time of national (?tragedy) will understand their responsibilities and show full strength and courage as required. Our religion teaches us to bow our head to the wishes of God. We are praying to him for the salvation of the souls of the deceased. We also pray to him so he gives us the spirit, capability, and determination to maintain our national unity and integrity and enables us to march forward in the struggle to take the nation to new heights.

By the grace of God, today the foundations of Pakistan are strong and stable. Our beloved president had an unforgettable role in providing the country and the nation with the costly asset of stability, and performed the responsibilities of the head of the nation for 11 years. His total attachment to Islam, his love for the poor and destitute, and his great sincerity toward his responsibilities have helped the country successfully overcome several stages of crises.

His greatest achievement is the position, prestige, and honor which Pakistan as a country enjoys in the entire world community, especially in the Islamic world. We are right to be proud that Gen Ziaul Haq was considered not only a leader of Pakistan but of the entire Islamic world. I am confident that like every Pakistani, the entire Islamic world will be mourning his death.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq gave many things to Pakistan. The foremost thing that he has left behind him was the legacy of a nation which can be greatly proud of its independence and sovereignty. Now it is our responsibility to protect the great boon of independence and sovereignty and spare no efforts to strengthen it. It has been necessary for our national stability to run the affairs of the country according to the Constitution. So with great humbleness, I have assumed the responsibilities that rest on me according to it. I earnestly pray to God that he may guide me in the discharge of my responsibilities. At the same time, I appeal to all citizens to cooperate with me in fulfilling the constitutional responsibilities. I believe I will receive wholehearted cooperation and best wishes, which I need most in this time of test.

The maintenance of continuity in the running of the government and law and order in the country will remain uppermost in my priorities and that is why I have directed the caretaker cabinets in the center and the provinces to continue to work as usual. Soon after assuming my constitutional responsibilities, I called an emergency meeting of the federal cabinet to which the three Armed Forces chiefs were given special invitations. The meeting has just ended and it was decided that the entire administration of the country will be run according to the Constitution.

Under the constitutional powers vested in it, the cabinet also decided that a state of emergency be enforced in the country. To deal with this emergency situation, the cabinet also approved the establishment of a high-level emergency council that will formulate directive principles as and when necessary.

The members of this council are as follows: senior federal minister, federal interior minister, federal defense minister, and federal minister for justice and parliamentary affairs; the chiefs of the Army, Naval, and Air Staff; the Punjab chief minister; the Sind acting governor; the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] and Baluchistan chief ministers; and the senior minister of the Sind cabinet.

Since President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq was the chief of the Army Staff also and his death has left that post vacant, I have appointed Gen Mirza Aslam Beg as chief of the Army Staff effective immediately.

I want to assure the nation that there will not be even the slightest difference in our faith in democracy. We will continue to march on the glowing path of democracy with full determination and confidence, God willing.

God willing, the elections will be held on 16 November as scheduled, and the government will fulfill all of its responsibilities in connection with holding peaceful, fair, and impartial elections.

I think it is important to announce here that Pakistan will adhere to its present foreign policy and fulfill all responsibilities under bilateral and international agreements. I have ordered an immediate inquiry into the fatal accident that took away our beloved president.

According to preliminary reports, the C-130 plane in which the president and his colleagues were traveling exploded a short while after taking off from Bahawalpur.

Therefore, the possibility of sabotage cannot be ruled out. Now it has become even more important for us to keep a close watch on the unholy designs of our enemies and to always remain alert.

It is a matter of great regret for me that besides our beloved president, some more valuable lives were lost in this accident. They include Gen Akhtar Abdur Rahman, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee chairman; Gen Mian Mohammad Afzal, the chief of the General Staff; and 11 other senior military officers. The 14-member plane crew from the Pakistan Air Force also lost their lives in the accident. This is surely an irreparable national loss.

As a result of the accident, the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, His Excellency Arnold Raphel, and his companion Brigadier General Wassom also lost their lives.

I, on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan and on my own behalf, express deepest condolences on his death.

A nationwide mourning will be observed for 10 days on this national tragedy. All government and semigovernment offices and educational institutions will remain closed for the next 3 days.

In conclusion, let us come and pray to our God so he grants our beloved President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq and other deceased an abode in heaven and bless their souls. Amen. Let us also pray to God, the merciful, that He may enable Pakistan to achieve new heights of unity, stability, and prosperity. Amen.

Long live Pakistan.

State of Emergency Provisions Explained

BK1808143788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Federal Justice Minister Wasim Jan Sajjad has said that the promulgation of the state of emergency in the country will not affect the people's basic rights.

Talking to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Islamabad today, he said the state of emergency has been implemented to give the federal government the authority to fulfill some necessary legislative requirements. He said it was necessary because Article 233 of the Constitution restricts the powers of the state on legislative matters. He clarified the point that powers of the judiciary will also not be affected by the state of emergency.

The federal minister said the Emergency Council is to work as an administrative body and will advise and assist the president.

He said President Ghulam Ishaq Khan will have complete authority to make final decisions at the highest level.

AFP on State of Emergency, Funeral Details

BK1808055088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0455 GMT 18 Aug 88

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 18 (AFP)—Pakistan is under a state of emergency Thursday, preparing for the funeral of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who died Wednesday in a plane crash.

Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the Senate chairman, proclaimed the state of emergency Thursday after the plane carrying General Zia and 29 other people exploded and crashed in eastern Pakistan.

Officials said there were no survivors.

The U.S. ambassador to Islamabad, Arnold Raphel, and Pakistan's Armed Forces Chief General Akhtar Abdul Rahman were also killed in the crash.

About 20 ranking Pakistani Army officers were also on the plane, the state-run radio said, as was U.S. defence attache Brigadier General Herbert Michael Wassom, U.S. sources said.

The Pakistani Air Force C-130 transport plane crashed at around 4:30 p.m. (2330 GMT) [as received] shortly after takeoff from Bahawalpur, near the Indian border, where Gen. Zia and the others had observed military exercises.

Mr. Khan, announcing the state of emergency in a nationwide television and radio broadcast, also said an emergency council had been set up, comprising ranking civilian and military officials.

He paid tribute to Gen. Zia's "love for Islam" and for enhancing Pakistan's prestige around the world.

He said initial reports suggested the plane blew up in the air and "the possibility of sabotage could not be ruled out."

Gen. Zia's body will arrive in Islamabad from Bahawalpur Thursday along with the remains of the other victims, a Defence Ministry official here said.

The official said collective funeral prayers would be held at the Islamabad Airport, and the bodies of the other victims would be handed over to their families for burial in their respective hometowns.

Gen. Zia's body will be taken to the Presidential Palace, the official said, adding that details of the state funeral would be announced later.

Informed sources said Gen. Zia would probably be buried Saturday according to Sunni Moslem rites.

Gen. Zia was Pakistan's longest-serving president and Army chief. He ruled the country for 11 years and six weeks and died five days after his 64th birthday.

The Urdu-language daily NAWA-E WAQT Thursday quoted informed sources as saying that Jordan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, the Maldives and other Islamic countries would be represented at the funeral at head of state-level.

Officials confirmed that the plane exploded in the air before crashing into the cotton fields of Lal Kamal village, six kilometers (four miles) from Bahawalpur, sources said.

Witnesses told journalists that they saw smoke coming from the plane, which seemed to be out of control and dipped twice before crashing, they said.

Burning wreckage was scattered across a two-hectare (five-acre) area, and several charred bodies were beyond recognition, the witnesses said.

Two helicopters arrived at the scene and left after a brief inspection, to be followed by fire brigades, they said.

Troops from Bahawalpur and the nearby Multan Garrison soon cordoned off the area and took over from civilian officials, the witnesses said.

Nation 'Grieved,' 'Shocked' Over Death

BK1808025288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0212 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] People throughout the country were deeply grieved and shocked at hearing the death of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN many people were seen crying and in frenzy and according to reports, many people lost consciousness after hearing this tragic news.

People in large numbers went to the residence of the late president in Rawalpindi and expressed condolences to the bereaved family. They included many women also.

People from various walks of life have expressed condolences on the death of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. They said the president's death has created a big vacuum in the nation's life. His services for the supremacy of Islam and the progress of the people and country will be remembered for a long time to come. They said the late president rendered important services for the promotion of solidarity and unity of Pakistan and the Islamic world.

The persons who expressed condolences on the death of the president include National Assembly Speaker Mr Hamid Nassir Chatha, Federal Ministers Mr Mahmud A. Haroon and Wasim Azhar Nazvi, Hajj Affairs Adviser Mr Zakria Kamdar, Punjab Governor Makhdum Sajjad Hussain Qureshi, Punjab's Acting Chief Minister Mr Nawaz Sharif, NWFP Governor Retired Brigadier Amir Gulistan Janjua, and NWFP Acting Chief Minister Lieutenant General Fazle Haq, Baluchistan Acting Chief Minister, Mir Zafrullah Khan Jamali, Sind Minister Rahim Bux Sumro, and Senator Maulana Nurul Haq, former federal ministers, Raja Zafarullah Haq and Rai mansab Ali and former Senator Maulana Samiul Haq.

Benazir Bhutto Comments

BK1708182488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1809 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Aug 17 (AFP)—Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said here Wednesday [17 August] that her Pakistani People's Party (PPP) was watching the situation closely following the death of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

"We think that it is a positive development that the constitutional path has been followed and the Senate chairman has been made president (following General Zia's death Wednesday in a plane crash)," she said. "On our part we are willing to cooperate in a smooth and constitutional transfer of power (after the November elections)," Ms. Bhutto told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE from her residence here.

"The PPP is watching the situation carefully," said Ms. Bhutto, whose father, former premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, was executed in 1979, two years after Gen. Zia overthrew him, on charges of conspiring to commit murder. "As you know he (Gen. Zia) had made the PPP the target of his vendetta. But on an occasion like this I will simply say that life and death is in God's hands," she said.

Ms. Bhutto said it was difficult to believe the Zia era was actually over. Recalling Gen. Zia's treatment of her father, she said the general's rule was an extremely violent one.

"It started with violence and it seems that it ended with violence," Ms. Bhutto said, adding that she regretted the death of the U.S. ambassador and other military officers in the crash.

Senate Adopts Resolution

BK1808094888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0900 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] The Senate unanimously adopted a resolution expressing profound grief and sorrow at the sudden death of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in a plane accident near Bahawalpur yesterday [17 August].

The resolution, moved by Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Wasim Sajjad, says the president's death at this crucial juncture has created a void in the national life as Mohammad Ziaul Haq was an important link between the past and the future.

The resolution recalls that the president had assumed the leadership of the country at an extremely delicate moment and led the nation out of several serious crises. He rendered services for Islam and made sincere efforts for the enforcement of the Islamic system in the country.

The resolution refers to the late president's successful foreign policy, which enhanced Pakistan's prestige outside the country, particularly ensuring it an honorable position in the Islamic world.

The resolution adds that the late president had a deep attachment with the cause of the Afghan people, but, regrettably, he could not see the fulfillment of their objective.

The resolution says that President Mohammad Ziaul Haq was a recognized leader of the Islamic world, and all heads of state and government held him in high esteem and attached great importance to his words.

The resolution also refers to his military career, saying that he had achieved the highest position in the Army by virtue of his ability and qualifications. He was very humble by nature, a man of firm determination and noble virtues, and a true Muslim.

The resolution says the house fully shares the grief and sorrow of the nation. The resolution offers heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. The house prayed to God that He may bless the soul of the deceased.

The Senate also expressed deep grief and sorrow at the deaths of General Akhtar Abdur Rahman and the U.S. ambassador, and at the loss of other valuable lives. A total of 22 members, including the sponsor of the motion, spoke on the resolution. They eulogized the late president's unforgettable services to the country and Islam. The acting chairman, Syed Mohammad Fazle Agha, fully shared the sentiments expressed in the resolution. The house also offered prayers for the salvation of the dead.

The Senate session has been adjourned indefinitely.

Senate, House Actions

BK1808062788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] The Senate, which started its session a short while ago, is now considering a resolution which expresses deep sorrow and grief on behalf of the House at the sudden and untimely death of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in a plane crash yesterday afternoon.

The House has also expressed heartfelt condolences with the bereaved family and has prayed to God for the salvation of the soul of the deceased and for providing courage to his relatives to bear this shock.

The House expressed sorrow and grief at the loss of the other lives in the same plane which included General Akhtar Abdur Rahman and other members of the armed forces and crew members.

The House also condoled the death of U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel, who was a prominent diplomat. The House expressed deep sympathy with the people and Government of the United States and the U.S. Embassy.

The resolution was moved by the minister for justice, Mr Wasim Jan Sajjad.

Ishaq Khan Sends Sympathy Message to Reagan

BK1808064388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed heartfelt sympathy at the death of U.S. Ambassador in Pakistan Mr Arnold Raphel and of Brigadier General Wassom.

In his message to President Reagan, Ishaq Khan said: We have been deprived of a man of extraordinary qualifications who, with his professional competence and dedication to duty, played a prominent role in the promotion of U.S.-Pakistan relations. He made innumerable friends in Pakistan, thanks to his humanitarian considerations. They equally share with me the grief and sorrow at this irreparable loss.

The president added that U.S. Ambassador Raphel worked tirelessly for the promotion of U.S.-Pakistan friendship, and he hoped that this friendship will be further strengthened and consolidated.

He also expressed heartfelt condolences on the death of Brig Gen Wassom.

Nations Relay Condolences on Ziaul Haq's Death

USSR Sends Message

LD1808112888 Moscow World Service in English 1100 MT 18 Aug 88

[Text] The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has, in a message addressed to the acting president of Pakistan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, expressed their deep condolences over the death of President Ziaul Haq and the officials who accompanied him.

This was said by a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Gennadiy Gerasimov, at a briefing in Moscow today. The Soviet Union, the Soviet spokesman said, has invariably advocated normal, good-neighborly relations with Pakistan.

PRC Expresses Shock

OW1808083588 Beijing XINHUA in English 0803 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Beijing, August 18 (XINHUA)—Chinese President Yang Shangkun and Premier Li Peng today expressed their deep shock at the tragic death of Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

In a message to new Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Yang and Li said: "Shocked to learn of the tragic demise of Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, we wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, our profound condolences to you and, through you, to the Pakistan Government and people, and our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

"President Ziaul Haq was an outstanding leader of Pakistan and an internationally acclaimed statesman. Over the years, he had made unremitting efforts to safeguard national independence and sovereignty and promote regional peace and stability. He had all along attached great importance to friendship with China and made major contributions to furthering the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Pakistan. His unfortunate death is a tremendous loss to Pakistan and has deprived us of a respected old friend. At this moment of grief, we sincerely hope that the Pakistan Government and people, under your excellency's leadership, will remain united and maintain stability and continue to make concerted efforts for the preservation of peace and the development of the economy."

Japan Expresses Regret

OW1808044788 Tokyo KYODO in English 0437 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 18 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi on Thursday expressed the government's regret at the sudden death of Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

The chief government spokesman said in a written statement, "The sudden death of Zia, who had made efforts for peace and stability in South Asia as well as for solving the Afghan issue, is a great loss not only for the people of Pakistan but also the people of the world."

Obuchi said the president, since he came to power in 1977, had led Pakistan with prominent leadership and had been highly respected in the international community.

Japan and Pakistan have traditionally maintained friendly ties and bilateral relations have developed through Zia's visit to Japan in 1983 and Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's visit to Pakistan in 1984, Obuchi said.

Obuchi said he hopes the government and the people of Pakistan would overcome the trial and sadness of Zia's death and would continue efforts for the peace and prosperity of Pakistan.

AFP Reports Rockets Hit Karachi Refineries

BK1808064488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0619 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Aug 18 (AFP)—Rockets were fired at two oil refineries and an oil terminal here early Thursday, witnesses and official sources said.

Some damage was caused, but no casualties, the sources said.

The rockets were aimed at the state-owned Pakistan refinery and national refinery in Karachi's Korangi industrial area and at Kimari oil terminal on the coast, the reports said.

There was no immediate indication of who might have been responsible.